

**SOUTHEAST FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING**

October 2, 1997  
ANS/ANB Hall  
Yakutat, Alaska

**VOLUME III**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. William C. Thomas, Chairman  
Ms. Dolly Garza  
Mr. Herman Kitka, Sr.  
Ms. Mim McConnell  
Ms. Patricia Phillips  
Ms. Mary Rudolph  
Mr. John F. Feller, Jr.  
Mr. John F. Vale  
Mr. Gabriel George  
Ms. Marilyn R. Wilson  
Mr. Jeff Nickerson

**Regional Council Coordinator:**

Fred Clark

## P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2

3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Good morning everybody. Time for us  
4 to start our morning session here. We're going to have a short  
5 day in this building, so we're going to have to move right  
6 along. It's good to see everybody back up and atom again this  
7 morning. I want to thank Yakutat again for their nice  
8 hospitality, keeping the coffee and the munchies and the  
9 subsistence rolling. John said we were going to have  
10 subsistence, so he kept his word very good.

11  
12 But to start this morning off, I think, we'll continue  
13 with where we left off yesterday by Patti got stood on her back  
14 over her proposal. So I think we'll continue there. We were  
15 discussing Proposal 12, did we reach that point of what we're  
16 going to do with that? Patti.

17  
18 MS. PHILLIPS: I would rather it not be titled Proposal  
19 12 because it's basically -- even though it's an idea built off  
20 of that, it should be, you know, three different ideas  
21 submitted separately.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, what's the wish of the Council?

24  
25 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

28  
29 MS. GARZA: I think that the Sitka Fish and Game  
30 Advisory Council and Sitka residents will be working on this  
31 issue and so I imagine we'll see it as proposals brought before  
32 us again. And I'll be glad to bring these ideas to Sitka so  
33 they're aware of what our interests are.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. I'm still looking for guidance  
36 on how to deal with it at the moment. Herman.

37  
38 MR. KITKA: Mr. Chairman, I think STA in Sitka has a  
39 proposal to end the deer season December 31st. And I think we  
40 should consider it to see what happens, see how the Board feels  
41 on the whole issue. So I move that we consider their proposal.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What is the motion again, Herman, to  
44 table it? To table the proposal? Did anybody hear what the  
45 language of the motion was?

46  
47 MR. KITKA: Um-hum.

48  
49 MS. GARZA: I think that if STA intends to submit that  
50 proposal, then we should wait until we see that proposal at the

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1 next meeting and comment on it at that time. Would that be  
2 okay, Herman?

3  
4 MR. KITKA: Yeah.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. That's okay on the one side,  
7 but what's your wishes Patti?

8  
9 MS. PHILLIPS: STA is Sitka Tribes of Alaska. I'm  
10 going to submit them myself if that's the case.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. So I haven't gotten any  
13 direction on that so I'm going to move in a direction and if  
14 anybody's happy with this direction we'll come back to it. But  
15 we'll move on to either another proposal topic or another  
16 agenda item. What's the wish of the Council?

17  
18 MS. PHILLIPS: I would like my marten proposal  
19 submitted, so do I need to make a motion?

20  
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yes.

22  
23 MR. CLARK: I've got it on the proposal form.

24  
25 MS. PHILLIPS: So I move to submit a martin, mink and  
26 weasel proposal for Unit 4. Do I need to be real specific?  
27 Unit 4, northeast Chichagof controlled use area, no limit,  
28 December 1 through December 31. Unit 4, remainder of Chichagof  
29 Island, no limit, December 1 through February 15th.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. At this point the process is  
32 just to submit the proposal. The discussion on the merits of  
33 the proposal could be taken up at our winter meeting. There  
34 was a motion made, is there a second?

35  
36 MS. McCONNELL: Second.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's been moved and seconded.  
39 Further discussion.

40  
41 MR. VALE: Call for the question.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called, all those in  
44 favor say aye.

45  
46 IN UNISON: Aye.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Opposed same sign.

49  
50 (One opposing response)

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1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Motion carries, noting one no vote.  
2 Next item. Jeff.

3  
4 MR. NICKERSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just want the  
5 Council know that I'm going to be submitting a proposal on the  
6 deer season -- doe season on Prince of Wales Island. So until  
7 I get the information -- I want to make sure that it's done  
8 right so I'm -- it will be in before October 23rd.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. So that will be a personal  
11 submission, right?

12  
13 MR. NICKERSON: (Nods affirmatively)

14  
15 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

16  
17 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

20  
21 MS. GARZA: I guess I would like it noted in the  
22 minutes that for the marten proposal that we did not actually  
23 have the proposal in front of us to review.

24  
25 MS. PHILLIPS: I had it formatted out and I didn't get  
26 copies made. I came here prepared, you know, for it to be  
27 circulated and shared it with the appropriate people, but that  
28 didn't -- it didn't get circulated. I guess I should have  
29 brought up 15 copies myself.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What's the wish of the Council, do  
32 you want to wait until you have a chance to read the merits of  
33 the proposal?

34  
35 MS. GARZA: No, Mr. Chairman. I'm not trying to create  
36 an issue here. I just would like it in the minutes, you know,  
37 it will come back to us in the spring meeting, so that's the  
38 way it is. But I just think it should be in the minutes.

39  
40 MR. CLARK: Just for the information of the Council, it  
41 is formatted in the proper form and I have that form all  
42 written down, but I was unable to get it to a printer last  
43 night for the Council.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. Next item. Okay, that takes  
46 care of our proposals. Issues to be addressed in the '97  
47 annual report. Fred, you had some comments around that to  
48 offer to the Council?

49  
50 MR. CLARK: So far I haven't received any input from

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1 the Council as to items that should go into an annual report  
2 for 1997. I just would suggest to the Council that as we put  
3 together this next annual report, that we explicitly separate  
4 the things that we know are Federal Subsistence Board issues  
5 from things that we know are Federal land management agency  
6 issues. The reason being that when we lump it all together,  
7 both the Federal Subsistence Board Staff and the Forest Service  
8 Staff and the National Park Service Staff, if things go to  
9 them, have to look at the whole package and try to determine  
10 for themselves, what we're trying to say relative to their  
11 jurisdiction. So it ends up to be a lot more work for  
12 everybody that way. So if we can, you know, direct something  
13 directly to the Board that we know is in their jurisdiction.  
14 And if we have things that we want to direct, for instance to  
15 the Forest Service, then direct it directly to them that might  
16 be a more efficient and effective way of handling the annual  
17 report. If we're in question about whether it's a Federal  
18 Subsistence Board or a land management agency issue, we can  
19 submit it to both.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. So we'll do this as the year  
22 progresses. Dolly.

23  
24 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I agree with that suggestion,  
25 Fred, because in looking at our report last year and the  
26 response from it, we did -- one of the issues we brought up was  
27 810 compliance. And although we heard from the Forest Service  
28 on that issue, we did not hear from the Park Service. And so I  
29 guess we need to be more direct in asking each agency what  
30 their efforts are in the areas that we're concerned.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah, that's true. It will remove  
33 any imagination, so that's a good idea. Okay, that concludes  
34 discussion on annual report. Marty, you had your hand up?

35  
36 MR. VALE: Bill I had a comment on the annual report I  
37 wanted to.....

38  
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

40  
41 MR. MARTIN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Council. I  
42 was just discussing with one of our elders here and a few of  
43 the Staff that are around the building and after last night I  
44 thought long and hard of what we could do to try to comply with  
45 some of the issues of wanton waste. And I just wanted to  
46 basically ask the Council this morning if this was feasible and  
47 under the general provisions of methods and means on Page 12 in  
48 this, what I was wanting to propose if it was feasible, I  
49 wanted to ask to see if it was something you'd consider before  
50 I went ahead and did the proposal, was the ban of use of full-

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1 metal jacketed ammunition to hunt Sitka black-tailed deer and  
2 that would cut down a lot of wanton waste issues.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sounds good by me.

5  
6 MR. VALE: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think that would make  
7 an excellent proposal myself.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

10  
11 MS. GARZA: When you talked to the guys back there, was  
12 there any concern in terms of the ability to enforce that or to  
13 implement that?

14  
15 MR. MARTIN: I think Ted had a concern. He could  
16 probably address that if he'd like to come up and speak on  
17 that.

18  
19 MR. SCHENCK: Ted Schenck, Chatham area wildlife  
20 biologist for the record. I do have a concern about this. And  
21 after spending lots of hours in the field trying to enforce  
22 steel shot regulations for water fowl and how difficult that  
23 was, I had a concern that it'd be difficult to enforce this.  
24 I'm not against doing away with wanton waste, and I believe  
25 that you all know my position on that.

26  
27 What I don't want to do is get subsistence users into  
28 an issue about the kinds of bullets that they use in their  
29 guns. This could potentially be quite a difficult thing to  
30 enforce. And it may be one of those that would lead us down  
31 the road of inadvertent violations. People have cheap  
32 ammunition that they might use for something else with them, I  
33 could see problems with it. So I have a concern of what Marty  
34 is concerned about this with this is that the expanding bullets  
35 would kill the animals more rapidly than full-metal jackets.  
36 And that's true, but most subsistence hunters that I know would  
37 probably not choose to use full-metal jackets to hunt with  
38 because they're -- hunt deer with anyway, because they're not  
39 as effective. So I do have some concerns with it from the  
40 enforcement point of view. And I think that it would be very  
41 difficult for me to get good scientific data to present to you  
42 on the crippling loss due to this particular thing or any of  
43 the scientific basis. My biggest concern was, how do I get  
44 data for you to make a good decision on it and not have  
45 opinions. So that was my biggest concern that I was expressing  
46 to Marty.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: My suggestion would be rather than to  
49 use our time on the merits of it now is to go ahead and submit  
50 the proposal, if you were to do so and save that for our winter

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1 meeting. Because we're going to have to move rapidly morning,  
2 so we wasted a lot of time yesterday and I try to learn from  
3 hindsight. So if you guys will just bear with me. You got any  
4 other proposals, Marty?

5  
6 MR. MARTIN: No, Mr. Chairman. That's all I had and I  
7 just wanted to see if it was -- to hear basically, you  
8 know.....

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah. Well.....

11  
12 MR. MARTIN: .....just to comment on it and to see if it  
13 was feasible.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We could probably spend the week on  
16 discussing it and not go anywhere.

17  
18 MR. MARTIN: Yeah.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Appreciate it. Go ahead and submit  
21 it.

22  
23 MR. MARTIN: Okay, thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. John had some comments  
26 about the annual report.

27  
28 MR. VALE: Yeah, I guess the one item that I feel is  
29 worth commenting on in the annual report has to do with the  
30 Federal takeover of fisheries here. We know that there's  
31 potentially another moratorium coming in here. But I think  
32 it's worth pointing out that residents of Southeast Alaska are  
33 continuing to be denied access to a number of fishery resources  
34 in navigable waters. For example, king salmon and cohos, which  
35 were historically used. And I'd just like to have something in  
36 the annual report addressing that and the need to press forward  
37 with Federal management. And I know that presently the  
38 jurisdiction in most marine waters is, you know, not being  
39 proposed. But I still feel that subsistence users in Southeast  
40 Alaska are being denied a historical resource there and I'd  
41 like to have some comment on it in the annual report.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, John. Got that noted  
44 Fred?

45  
46 MR. CLARK: Yeah, I got that. One option would be for  
47 you to write that up and give it to me and I'll compile it with  
48 the other things that are submitted and that will go back out  
49 to the Council for review. Would that be an acceptable to  
50 handle that?

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1 MR. VALE: Sounds good.

2

3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sounds good, he said. Okay, down to  
4 Item (D), proposed shift in regulatory schedule.

5

6 MS. MEEHAN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Council.  
7 Rosa Meehan, Office of Subsistence Management. Under Tab J  
8 we've got a very short proposal that we would be interested in  
9 Council input. The issue is that the biologists who -- and  
10 anthropologists who are writing the analysis for your  
11 consideration in the winter meetings have, in reality, a pretty  
12 short period of time to prepare the analysis. And so one of  
13 the things we're trying to do is look for a way to provide more  
14 time to prepare the background material for the Councils to be  
15 able to present a more complete analysis to you at the winter  
16 meetings.

17

18 One of the ways that we found to do this was to shift  
19 the schedule around a little bit. And what we would propose as  
20 a potential alternate schedule, if it's acceptable to the  
21 Councils, is to basically shift the winter meetings one month  
22 later and this would also mean that the spring Board meeting  
23 would be shifted one month later. And so what we're asking you  
24 is if it would be acceptable to the Council to have the winter  
25 meetings in February and March, sometime in that time period  
26 and the spring Board meeting in the beginning of May, it would  
27 be the first or second week in May. And to be able to see this  
28 on a calendar, we do have two pages in here that has the  
29 current Council meeting window and then the next page behind it  
30 is the alternate Council meeting window. And so at this time,  
31 what I'd be very interested in hearing from you, first of all,  
32 is if this change in schedule is acceptable, and then the  
33 second thing is, we would be really interested in having the  
34 Council pick a meeting time within the current schedule and  
35 then pick a meeting time in the alternate Council meeting  
36 schedule that would work for this Council.

37

38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What would be the reason of the two  
39 schedules?

40

41 MS. MEEHAN: We're waiting until we hear back from all  
42 of the Councils as to whether the alternate schedule would work  
43 or not and therefore, we want to make sure that we have Council  
44 preferences on setting up meetings, whichever schedule we go  
45 with. And whatever way it comes out, we will certainly get  
46 back to the Council as soon as possible after this full round  
47 of Council meetings.

48

49 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Any questions from the Council?

50 Dolly.



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1 MS. GARZA: I guess when I looked at it in the packet I  
2 thought I understood what was going on and now I'm not sure.  
3 So both sets of meetings are now moved to the beginning of the  
4 year?

5  
6 MS. MEEHAN: No. What we'd like to do is just take  
7 the winter meeting and have it a month later. If we do that,  
8 it means that the Board meeting will also be a month later,  
9 because, you know, the schedule cascades.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, the thing is the staff that has  
12 to cover these meetings cover multiple meetings, and the time  
13 frame between the time of our -- well, the time that they got  
14 to prepare analysis for our winter meeting consideration is  
15 pretty crunched and they feel like they'd have a better time to  
16 give a better Staff analysis and a more presentable one if they  
17 had more time to do it in; is that correct?

18  
19 MS. MEEHAN: Absolutely.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So that was the point of the whole  
22 consideration for that schedule change. Dolly.

23  
24 MS. GARZA: Yeah, I guess that's what I thought I  
25 understood when I looked in the packet and then I thought I  
26 heard you say that the winter meeting would go to January or  
27 February.

28  
29 MS. MEEHAN: That's under the current schedule.

30  
31 MS. GARZA: Okay.

32  
33 MS. MEEHAN: And then we'd switch from a  
34 January/February window to a February/March window.

35  
36 MS. GARZA: Okay. I certainly have no problem meeting  
37 later in the year because I think that would be better  
38 weatherwise for us getting in and out of wherever we plan on  
39 going.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. Later on in our agenda we're  
42 going to be taking time to set our next meeting. So I want the  
43 Council to keep in mind those two opportunities for dates, a  
44 primary date and an alternative date. And when we get to that  
45 part of our agenda we can spend time deliberating that, about  
46 two minutes worth.

47  
48 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. One thing I could share with you  
49 since we're getting along through our meetings is the Council's  
50 to date have not had a problem with the later schedule. And so

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1 I share that with you as a piece of information. And then I  
2 have one other request, if you would consider in setting your  
3 meeting schedule -- this Council is well known for having a  
4 number of proposals, they're all very interesting and they all  
5 require a lot of analysis since you all are such careful  
6 thinkers and have careful consideration about it. And so from  
7 somebody who has to help prepare the analysis, the later you  
8 could have your meeting in the schedule, the better it is --  
9 the easier it is for us, and so if that's possible, we would  
10 really appreciate it.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, thank you.

13  
14 MS. MEEHAN: Thank you.

15  
16 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Marilyn.

19  
20 MS. WILSON: I just have a question, are we going to  
21 decide this later on this morning?

22  
23 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yes.

24  
25 MS. WILSON: Okay.

26  
27 MS. McCONNELL: Did we approve of the change?

28  
29 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: No.

30  
31 MS. WILSON: We're going to decide.....

32  
33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We're going to discuss it later.

34  
35 MS. McCONNELL: How come?

36  
37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: L-A-T-E-R.

38  
39 MS. McCONNELL: Why?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: If somebody could move the sun out of  
42 my eyes, I could think better. Is that possible?

43  
44 MS. McCONNELL: Well, the shades are already down -- it  
45 will move.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Gabe's pretty handy at getting  
48 things.....

49  
50 MR. VALE: Let's scoot the table back six inches, Bill.

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1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, move back.

2  
3 MR. VALE: Does that help a little?

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Perfect.

6  
7 MS. McCONNELL: That makes a better curve.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Perfect.

10  
11 MS. WILSON: Now Dolly's got the sun.

12  
13 MS. GARZA: I don't mind it.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. Charter review, Fred.

16  
17 MR. CLARK: We have the opportunity to change the  
18 Council's charter every two years and the next cycle is coming  
19 up. So it's on the agenda this time just so the Council can  
20 start considering if there's anything in the charter that you  
21 would like to see changed. I haven't received any input from  
22 the Council at this point that would indicate there is anything  
23 that we need to change on the charter. There may be things to  
24 change on the charter if and when we do go into subsistence  
25 fisheries management, we may want to look at it for that. I  
26 was just looking for a piece of paper that had a suggestion  
27 from one of the Staff from Fish and Wildlife Service that all  
28 the Councils should look at, but I have not been able to put my  
29 fingers on it just now. So if we could have a few minute  
30 recess for me to find it or you could go on to another issue  
31 right now and we could come back to that in a few minutes, if  
32 that would be acceptable?

33  
34 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Two minutes.

35  
36 MR. CLARK: Either that or we could just go on.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Two minutes.

39  
40 (Off record)

41 (On record)

42  
43 MR. CLARK: Are my two minutes up yet, Bill?

44  
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Just now. We'll come back to order.

46 Okay, Fred.

47  
48 MR. CLARK: This was a suggestion from Jerry Berg, the  
49 Office of Subsistence Management, it says, under Item 9, the  
50 last part of the description for the Chair should probably be

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1 taken out as it's no longer needed. The existing charters now  
2 read, Chair, Council members shall elect the Chair for a one  
3 year term. The first elected Chair may serve a term of less  
4 than one year. I think his point is that the last half of that  
5 be deleted. So the new charters would read, Chair, Council  
6 members shall elect the Chair for a one year term. The point  
7 being that we've already been through the process of this  
8 cycling the Chairman in for less than one year.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Where'd you get that information?

11  
12 MR. CLARK: That's from Jerry Berg at the Office of  
13 Subsistence Management.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Is he trying to justify his paycheck  
16 or what?

17  
18 MR. CLARK: I don't know, but that's it.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

21  
22 MS. McCONNELL: Mr. Chair, may I make a motion?

23  
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sure.

25  
26 MS. McCONNELL: I move that we delete the last half of  
27 the sentence under Chair, Section Chair, #9.

28  
29 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Isn't that undermining if you take  
30 off the bottom sentence?

31  
32 MS. McCONNELL: Well, we're going to put a period in  
33 there.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Oh, okay.

36  
37 MS. McCONNELL: Yeah.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You heard the motion, is there a  
40 second?

41  
42 MR. VALE: Second.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Moved and seconded. Discussion.

45  
46 MR. VALE: Question.

47  
48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called, all those in  
49 favor say aye.

50

00184

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: All those adamantly opposed say no.

4  
5 (No opposing responses)

6  
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Motion carries. Patti.

8  
9 MS. PHILLIPS: I'd like to address removal of members.

10  
11 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. That -- yeah, let's do it, go  
12 ahead, what do you want to address?

13  
14 MS. PHILLIPS: I'd like to amend it so it reads, the  
15 Chair person shall excuse Council member absences from regular  
16 Council meetings. If a Council member appointing under  
17 Paragraph 9 misses two consecutive, unexcused, regularly  
18 scheduled meetings, the Council may declare a Council vacancy.  
19 The Southeast Regional Advisory Council may recommend that the  
20 Secretary of Interior with concurrence of the Secretary of  
21 Agriculture remove that individual.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That was your change?

24  
25 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes. The reason for being is members  
26 represent the area as a whole. For me to make a decision on a  
27 specific area outside of where I live I need input from those  
28 directly effected. Also good decisions involve the networking  
29 of ideas and fine tuning until the proposal reflects regional  
30 concerns and meets the criteria of ANILCA.

31  
32 MS. GARZA: So Patti, is your intent to make it easier  
33 for the Chairman to remove someone who's not participating?

34  
35 MS. PHILLIPS: Yes.

36  
37 MS. GARZA: So would that require that a Council member  
38 either contact the Chair or the Chair, through Fred, to  
39 indicate that they would not make a meeting?

40  
41 MS. PHILLIPS: Correct.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Could you.....

44  
45 MS. McCONNELL: I'd like to second the motion.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, moved and second. Could you  
48 read that one more time.

49  
50 MS. PHILLIPS: The Chair person shall excuse Council

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1 member absences from regular Council meetings. If a Council  
2 member appointed under Paragraph 9 misses two consecutive,  
3 unexcused, regularly scheduled meetings, the Council may  
4 declare a Council vacancy. The Southeast Regional Advisory  
5 Council may recommend that the Secretary of Interior with the  
6 concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture remove that  
7 individual.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, thank you. Okay, it's been  
10 moved and seconded. Discussion. John.

11  
12 MR. VALE: Well, I like the change that inserts,  
13 unexcused absences. I support that part of it. I'm wondering  
14 why the -- what the intent is on the Chair -- if you mean the  
15 Chair of the Regional Council or the Chair of the Federal  
16 Subsistence Board can recommend that they be excused; which do  
17 you mean on that?

18  
19 MS. PHILLIPS: That was being deleted.

20  
21 MR. VALE: Well, the last half of that said, the Chair  
22 could recommend -- were you referring to the Chair of the  
23 Regional Council or the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board?

24  
25 MS. PHILLIPS: As it reads now it says, the Chair of  
26 the Federal Subsistence Board, that would be deleted, and the  
27 Southeast Regional Advisory Council may recommend.

28  
29 MR. VALE: I see. I guess I'm a little -- I'm,  
30 personally, a little bit uncomfortable with the Regional  
31 Council taking that action and i'd rather see it left up to the  
32 Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board. I do like the insertion  
33 of the, unexcused, regularly scheduled meetings, though,  
34 because as we know we have people here who are active in many  
35 important activities and sometimes they may miss two scheduled  
36 meetings in a row for good reasons. So I like that part of it,  
37 but I'm a little uncomfortable with the last half.

38  
39 MS. PHILLIPS: We could say the Southeast Regional  
40 Advisory Council may recommend to the Chair of the Federal  
41 Subsistence Board somehow.

42  
43 MR. VALE: I think we could leave that last sentence  
44 alone.

45  
46 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.

47  
48 MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Jeff.

1 MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, the way I understand the  
2 amendment, it seems like it gives us more control, and I'm  
3 thinking about what we talked about yesterday or the day before  
4 about having a vote. It seems like it gives this Board the  
5 control to say, if I'm absent for the next two meetings and  
6 we're talking about a proposal on the Prince of Wales Island, I  
7 think I would expect you guys and I would respect you if you  
8 said, hey, you know, he's not doing his job, we need to do  
9 something because I am hurting you as a Board and not only the  
10 people on Prince of Wales Island.

11  
12 You know, but I -- it seems like -- I guess I'm in  
13 favor of the motion because it does give us the right to say,  
14 hey, you know, he or she isn't doing his job, let's do  
15 something, instead of waiting for the Board to -- waiting for  
16 the Chairman of the Federal Board to do something.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

19  
20 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I guess I like the idea of  
21 that type of a change, however, since we have the time I'd like  
22 to see it sort of in writing and look at it at the next  
23 meeting. My concern with the unexcused absence is -- I know  
24 that I've missed several meetings, but when I missed the Hoonah  
25 meeting, I missed it because nothing was flying in and when I  
26 called the previous Regional Coordinator in Hoonah to tell her,  
27 the message didn't make it to this Council and I felt really  
28 bad that the Council had thought that I just decided not to  
29 come. And so then I don't know if I would have gotten an  
30 excused after the fact or what the situation would have been,  
31 so I think we need to look at what the possibilities might be.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: That would depend on the Chairman's  
34 scrutiny after he heard all evidence.

35  
36 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chair, you know, I have been tardy  
37 and absent to meetings because of weather related problems and  
38 we could maybe define that weather related absences were  
39 excused. But I don't think we'd need to put it in the charter.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: You don't think it needs to be in the  
42 charter? You don't think it needs to be in the charter?  
43 Further discussion.

44  
45 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chair, I might as well throw in my  
46 opinion. I think all we need to add is that word, unexcused,  
47 and that would explain everything. And as a matter-of-fact,  
48 for the next sentence here, the Chair of the Federal  
49 Subsistence Board may recommend that the Secretary of Interior,  
50 you know, do the rest. But it seems like the Southeast

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1 Regional Council would have to bring it to the attention of the  
2 Federal Subsistence Board anyway. So I think all these  
3 unnecessary words are unnecessary. Just the word, unexcused,  
4 seems to say it all.

5

6 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. The discussion to this point  
7 will be to where I can understand it. Further discussion.

8

9 MS. McCONNELL: Mr. Chair.

10

11 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What.

12

13 MS. McCONNELL: Could I hear what Patti's got down now?

14

15 MS. PHILLIPS: The Chair person shall excuse Council  
16 member absences from regular Council meetings. If a Council  
17 member appointed under Paragraph 9 misses two consecutive,  
18 unexcused, regularly scheduled meetings, the Council may  
19 declare a Council vacancy. The Southeast Regional Advisory  
20 Council may recommend that the Secretary of Interior with  
21 concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture remove that  
22 individual.

23

24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's not an imposing change. It's a  
25 change that falls in line with a lot of other organizations.  
26 So to add that change is not imposing, to not change wouldn't  
27 be any different. So there's nothing threatening or libelous  
28 about it. It's kind of a comforter.

29

30 MS. DETWILER: Mr. Chairman.....

31

32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Just the Council member right now,  
33 the motion right now, thank you. Patti.

34

35 MS. PHILLIPS: If you look under, vacancy, it says,  
36 whenever a vacancy occurs among Council members appointed under  
37 Paragraph 9 the Secretary shall appoint an individual in  
38 accordance with Paragraph 9 to fill that vacancy of the  
39 remainder of the applicable term. So it doesn't say anything  
40 about the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board in that  
41 description of vacancy.

42

43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, a lot of this is you find  
44 worded in ANILCA so, further discussion.

45

46 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chair.

47

48 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The horse isn't going to get any  
49 deader. Marilyn.

50



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1 MS. WILSON: I move we table this until the next  
2 meeting and have it all written up so that the Council may see  
3 it.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's been moved to table, is there a  
6 second.

7  
8 MR. VALE: Second.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's non-debateable, the motion is  
11 tabled.

12  
13 MS. GARZA: It has to be voted.

14  
15 MR. VALE: Yes, it has to be voted, right.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: All those in favor say aye.

18  
19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: All opposed.

22  
23 (No opposing responses)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Still non-debateable. Does that  
26 conclude our effort on charter review? Sue, now that we  
27 disposed of that motion and discussion, the Council would be  
28 willing to hear what you had to offer in any case, appreciate  
29 it.

30  
31 MS. DETWILER: The comments that I was going to make  
32 was in regard to the wording that the Council Chair may declare  
33 a vacancy on the Council, and to declare a vacancy would mean  
34 that official action has been taken to remove someone from  
35 their seat. And right now that authority resides only with the  
36 Secretary of Interior, so technically speaking, that wording  
37 wouldn't be quite accurate.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you.

40  
41 MS. McCONNELL: Mr. Chairman.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, we don't like to be quite  
44 accurate all the time. Mim.

45  
46 MS. McCONNELL: So at the next meeting is the wording  
47 going to be worked on to make it all legal and proper and  
48 presented to us?

49  
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah. Angoon says yes.

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1 MR. CLARK: Absolutely.

2  
3 MS. McCONNELL: Okay.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Any further consideration of the  
6 charter? Okay, that brings us into Item F, Prince of Wales  
7 deer use and value study, Coordinator.

8  
9 MR. CLARK: I'd like to invite Bob Schroeder and Mike  
10 Turek up to the table and Rachel, do you want to get in on  
11 this?

12  
13 MS. MASON: I don't know that I need to.

14  
15 MR. CLARK: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of  
16 the Council. If you'll turn your clocks back to dealing with  
17 Prince of Wales deer issues last year, good old Proposal 7, I  
18 know that it got etched on a lot of people's minds and emotions  
19 last year, so much that Dave Johnson from Craig Ranger District  
20 printed up these little wooden sevens and mailed them out to a  
21 bunch of us who were working on it just as a reminder of how  
22 much fun it was.

23  
24 But the proposal process and the consultations done by  
25 the Council, the analysis done by the Staff, the presentations  
26 to the Federal Subsistence Board, the petitions that came from  
27 residents of Ketchikan, from residents of Prince of Wales  
28 Island, all dealing with the deer issues on Prince of Wales was  
29 a pretty big fire, resulting in things like hearings from the  
30 legislature and all and all, I think the Council was placed in  
31 a very poor position. And I don't want to see that happen  
32 anymore. There was a major lack of information. There was a  
33 major lack of time to analyze the available information. It  
34 was not a good situation. So in recognition of that and along  
35 with the recognition of just plain information needs about deer  
36 on Prince of Wales, the ranger at the Craig Ranger District,  
37 Dave Johnson, who's the subsistence coordinator on that  
38 district and myself started putting our heads together trying  
39 to figure out what might come of it, what we might be able to  
40 do. Asking ourselves the question, what information would have  
41 been good to have last year that would have made a difference  
42 in the decision making process and in the public relations  
43 process? So we thought, asking people directly about their  
44 uses and values associated with deer on Prince of Wales would  
45 be a good way to get a lot of good information. The  
46 "scientific" information was thoroughly inadequate. There's no  
47 way that you can get population data on deer on Prince of Wales  
48 without spending millions and millions of dollars, and even  
49 then, it might not be great. The level of certainty is very  
50 low.

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1           However, there are lots of people who spend a lot of  
2 time on the ground looking at deer, looking at where deer live,  
3 looking at habitat, looking at the interactions of deer and  
4 people and deer and wolves and deer and roads. All the  
5 different things that play into the different ups and downs of  
6 deer and people interactions.

7  
8           Craig Ranger District said, well, we have a little  
9 money that we might be able to put towards a study. And then I  
10 talked to people at the Forest Service at the Regional Office  
11 and found out that they might have a little bit of money, too,  
12 so we put that together and Stuart Allen, who works for the  
13 Forest Sciences Lab and who's a social scientist and Rachel,  
14 you know, Rachel, myself, Bob Schroeder, Mike Turek, David  
15 Johnson, a whole bunch of people just started talking about  
16 what we might be able to do to come up with the right kind of  
17 information to provide to the Council. So we got funding, we  
18 got some ideas and we want to share those ideas with you and  
19 see what you think about the direction that this has taken,  
20 because it really needs your input.

21  
22           CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Do you feel like you're going in the  
23 right direction?

24  
25           MR. CLARK: Yes.

26  
27           CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

28  
29           MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you, Fred, Mr. Chairman and  
30 members of the Council. We really would like your input on  
31 this because I think we're in a little bit of new ground. Now,  
32 we're not in new ground in terms of doing research or preparing  
33 background papers or things of that sort. However, the level  
34 of briefing and information that's provided to the Council that  
35 we'll be providing through this piece of work will be something  
36 new. As you all know, the relationship between the State of  
37 Alaska and the Regional Council system, put in the best light  
38 has been evolving over time. In general, although Department  
39 Staff may attend Regional Council meetings and attempt to work  
40 with Federal Staff to provide them with information relevant to  
41 the regulatory decisions that you guys are making, we basically  
42 aren't setup to provide thorough briefings on a regular basis,  
43 and that's something that may be worked out better in the  
44 future.

45  
46           I think this project gives us a chance to see what we  
47 can do to provide you, as the Regional Council, with the best  
48 available data that exists on this issue, which is going to  
49 come before you. And if we all do a good job of it, with your  
50 support, this may set something of a model for the type of

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1 information that a Regional Council will come to depend on and  
2 rely on for the decisions that you make.

3  
4 Just at the onset, Mike and I want to put on our  
5 research hats, so we do work for the Department of Fish and  
6 Game. The Department of Fish and Game in the State may take  
7 positions at the policy level that don't agree with the  
8 positions of the Federal system or the Regional Councils. And  
9 clearly the two systems operate under different legal  
10 directions. However, we believe that the policy decisions can  
11 be separated from the facts and from the data sources that  
12 underlie management decisions. And so in the work that we do,  
13 we will not be coming up with a conclusion or a recommendation.  
14 What we intend to do is put the facts before the Council in as  
15 clear a fashion that we can.

16  
17 The project basically has two major components, the one  
18 major component is organizing and making sense of existing  
19 data. And those data include division of subsistence studies  
20 that have been done over the years, work on maps, et cetera,  
21 that Mike will be describing, as well as, providing some level  
22 of summary information of harvest data and with the assistance  
23 of Kim Titus' staff, some level of summary on the biological  
24 information, such as it's known at this moment. The other part  
25 of the project will consist of key respondent interviews in the  
26 effected communities on Prince of Wales. I think the best way  
27 to proceed with this would be to go through some of the sources  
28 that we have and to give you an indication of what we're  
29 working on. The goal here isn't really to explore the Prince  
30 of Wales deer, wolf, subsistence hunter, urban hunter situation  
31 right at this moment, but more to show you the direction we're  
32 going and to see if there's some area of inquiry or something  
33 that we can do that we haven't thought of real clearly.

34  
35 This morning we had a breakfast meeting with Federal  
36 Staff, Jeff and Patti and there was a suggestion made that we  
37 do a summary of some economic indicators for Prince of Wales  
38 and Ketchikan. Well, that's something we can do, we didn't  
39 have it on our list. Well, we're definitely open -- we think  
40 we have a good approach on this, but we're definitely open to  
41 suggestions. So what I'd like to do is go through the types of  
42 what we've listed. And Mike gave you a memo that looks like  
43 this yesterday which is there and there are two main parts to  
44 it. The one is basically a thumbnail description of the  
45 project as -- we, meaning, Mike, myself, Fred, Stuart and  
46 Rachel have outlined. And the second part is kind of  
47 interesting, it's headed, Prince of Wales Deer Project Fact  
48 Sheet. And when we're doing field interviews on Prince of  
49 Wales, we wanted some things to be before people so they could  
50 see what we knew at this moment so we didn't waste a lot of

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1 people's time having them give us information that already was  
2 available from other sources. So we go through those and then  
3 Mike will talk about how the field interviewing portion of this  
4 project's going to work.

5  
6 So Mike, do you want to go through the document  
7 research.

8  
9 MR. TUREK: We've already done the last month. We've  
10 gone through the data that we have, the documents that we have  
11 pertaining to Prince of Wales and have selected certain  
12 documents and certain sections of documents that we'll be able  
13 to use. The first one is a subsistence resource use patterns  
14 in Southeast Alaska, a summary of 30 communities. We refer to  
15 that as the TOSH (ph) reports, and those were done in '94 on 30  
16 communities at Southeast Alaska from data gathered on TRUC  
17 Surveys and previous surveys. And what we'll do is we'll use  
18 sections of those reports, for each of the communities on  
19 Prince of Wales, in particular, the sections on the history of  
20 the community and probably some of the demographic information,  
21 and then the deer use information that we had in that report.  
22 There's also a set of maps that go with that. We won't be  
23 printing those up but we do have them available if anybody  
24 wants to take a look at the maps, they're pretty large maps,  
25 it'd be very expensive to print up copies of those. But I  
26 think the things out of that TOSH report that will really be  
27 helpful would be the history section on each community and then  
28 the section on deer use.

29  
30 We'll also be using data from the CPDB, that's the  
31 Community Profile Data Base. And for most of the communities  
32 on Prince of Wales, that's data collected from '85 and '88.  
33 '88 was the TRUCS survey. We do have new data from Point Baker  
34 and Point Protection that we collected last year on our survey.

35  
36 We'll also have Prince of Wales stenography and a  
37 regional overview, and this has to do with the population on  
38 Prince of Wales and Ketchikan, the growth of population. We  
39 have some real good data on that, which is a real important  
40 part, I think, of this project, is the growth of population in  
41 particular on Prince of Wales. Then in 1986, there was a paper  
42 published by the Department, timber management and fish and  
43 wildlife utilization in selected Southeast communities. There  
44 were a number of these reports, and the one on Klawock for  
45 Prince of Wales Island by Iliana Shorrod, has a very good  
46 section on the history of deer use by Tlingit in Southeast  
47 Alaska. So we'll be including that along with information on  
48 hunting patterns and especially with the change of hunting  
49 pattern in Klawock, once the roads began being built in 1970  
50 and how that's really altered the patterns of hunting on Prince

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1 of Wales.

2

3 We also have a number of maps that we did for the  
4 Tongass Land Management Plan. Sensitivity to disturbance maps  
5 for the Prince of Wales communities and we've got copies of  
6 those and that will be part of this research. And what that  
7 does is that shows areas that the community uses that are the  
8 most sensitive to disturbance, primarily in the case of Prince  
9 of Wales, logging. And those maps, I think, will be very  
10 helpful for outlining the areas that are important to the  
11 communities, and that is by the VCU, it's a unit the Forest  
12 Service has broken the Forest into, Value Comparison Units,  
13 which are smaller than the wildlife analysis areas, which are  
14 another unit that the Forest has been broken up into. So those  
15 are -- and what we did is we got the data for those from our  
16 previous studies. And this will also be an opportunity for me  
17 to go to the communities and review these maps with the  
18 communities and get new data for the use areas of the  
19 communities and see how close we were on these maps, which we  
20 think we're pretty close. So far the communities that we've  
21 reviewed these maps with we've come up with mostly agreement by  
22 the communities.

23

24 Then we'll be concluding a regulatory history for deer  
25 and wolf on Prince of Wales, so the State's hunting trapping  
26 regulations, that's what that will track, those. We'll also  
27 have a review and analysis of the Fish and Game's deer harvest  
28 data from the harvest mail out survey and we'll be including  
29 graphs on that. And also some charts -- that's -- that gives  
30 us a good idea of how many deer are being taken by each  
31 community.

32

33 We'll also review wolf data for Prince of Wales and  
34 then we'll have a review of Forest Service logging history,  
35 past road building and future plans for Prince of Wales areas  
36 including changes and habitat capability. And so far that's  
37 what we have gathered from existing data that will be in this  
38 report.

39

40 And then the fact sheet that Bob mentioned is something  
41 that we put together that we'll be giving out to everybody that  
42 we interview so we'll all -- we'll all know we have these  
43 particular facts and we won't need to discuss these at too much  
44 length when we interview the people. And I can go over this if  
45 you'd like starting with human population. The population of  
46 Prince of Wales has grown dramatically since 1970 census, with  
47 new communities being founded and older communities increasing  
48 in size. In 1970 there were four censuses communities on  
49 Prince of Wales and in 1995 there were 14 censuses communities.  
50 The 1970 population of Prince of Wales was 729, the 1995

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1 population is estimated at over 5,000 people. Craig has grown  
2 from a village of just under 300 people in 1970 to almost 2,000  
3 in 1995. Alaska Natives were the main and majority inhabitants  
4 of Prince of Wales Island until the recent population  
5 explosion. Alaska Natives accounted for about 25 percent of  
6 the total population of the Island at the time of the 1990  
7 census. We think that in 1970 probably closer to 80 percent of  
8 the population was Alaska Native.

9  
10 Wildlife and hunting. While we do not know how many  
11 deer there are on Prince of Wales Island, habitat models show  
12 that the Island can support about 64,000 deer at the present  
13 time. Due to logging, the number of deer that the Prince of  
14 Wales environment can support has declined about 16 percent  
15 since 1954 and it will decline an additional 12 percent under  
16 the present timber harvest plan when logging is completed on  
17 Federal land. Over the past eight years, hunters have taken  
18 estimated 2,283 to a little over 3,000 deer per year on Prince  
19 of Wales Island. There's currently a doe hunt for Federally  
20 qualified subsistence hunters, and an estimated 134 does were  
21 taken in the 1996/97 season. There is no doe hunt under the  
22 State of Alaska regulations. Rural Alaskans have taken about  
23 66.4 percent, however, Alaskans have taken an estimated 33.6  
24 percent of all deer taken on Prince of Wales Island. The  
25 overall proportion of GMU 2 -- GMU 2 is Prince of Wales Island,  
26 deer taken by rural and urban residents does not appear to have  
27 changed over the past eight years. So it's a pretty steady  
28 amount taken by rural and urban hunters over the past eight  
29 years on Prince of Wales.

30  
31 Prince of Wales Island residents take almost all their  
32 deer from local Prince of Wales Island area. Ketchikan  
33 residents take 54 percent of their deer from Prince of Wales  
34 Island. By our estimates there are between 300 and 400 wolves  
35 on Prince of Wales and adjacent islands. And we believe that  
36 each wolf takes about 26 deer per year. If this number is  
37 correct, wolves take between 7,800 and 10,400 deer per year in  
38 this area. Since 1990 hunters and trappers have taken between  
39 66 and 105 wolves per year.

40  
41 And then the logging information that we have -- in  
42 1985, there was in excess of 1,000 miles of connected road on  
43 Prince of Wales Island, today there may be more than 3,000  
44 miles of road on Prince of Wales Island. On Prince of Wales,  
45 over a 1,900,000 acres is Tongass National Forest Land. About  
46 181,000 acres have been cut in the '54 to '96 time period. The  
47 TLMP revision calls for cutting an additional 122,000 acres  
48 over the next 100 years.

49  
50 MS. McCONNELL: I got a question about that.....

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1 MR. TUREK: Um-hum.

2

3 MS. McCONNELL: .....statement right there. I wasn't  
4 clear if that 122,000 is -- so is that going to be in addition  
5 to the acres that have already been cut?

6

7 MR. TUREK: Right.

8

9 MS. McCONNELL: So none of that would be second growth?

10

11 MR. TITUS: Yes.

12

13 MR. TUREK: Right.

14

15 MS. McCONNELL: Yes what?

16

17 MR. TITUS: Yes and no.

18

19 MS. McCONNELL: Yes and no? Could that be clarified?

20

21 MR. TITUS: My name's Kim Titus. I think if you review  
22 the plan, what will happen in future years is some of the  
23 second growth is built into those equations from the Forest  
24 Service. So the number of old growth acres cut actually --  
25 it's pretty complicated, and when I said, yes and no, that's  
26 really the right answer to the question, I believe. Because  
27 some of the second growth acres, once they get to 100 years old  
28 or 80 or 90 years old will be harvested.

29

30 MS. McCONNELL: So is the -- so I'm still not clear  
31 then. Is it 181,000 acres plus 122,000 acres total or is there  
32 -- so there is some overlap?

33

34 MR. SCHROEDER: Mim, we'll be able to give you this in  
35 as much detail.....

36

37 MS. McCONNELL: Further on?

38

39 MR. SCHROEDER: .....as you would ever.....

40

41 MS. McCONNELL: Later on, okay.

42

43 MR. SCHROEDER: .....hope to have. But what Kim said  
44 is, you know, we completely agree with that. We're operating  
45 off data provided by Forest Service on productive old growth.

46

47 Yes, Sir.

48

49 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I'm going to put a one hour time  
50 limit on this.



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1 MS. McCONNELL: Okay, I'll let you move on. Sorry.

2

3 MR. TUREK: And the last thing on the fact sheet is  
4 briefly discuss, Federal and State of Alaska jurisdiction.  
5 Subsistence hunting on Federal lands is regulated by the  
6 Federal Board. Federal Subsistence Board is made up of heads  
7 of the Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian  
8 Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land  
9 Management. The FSB follows the recommendations of the  
10 Southeast Regional Advisory Council, whose members are  
11 Southeast Alaska community residents appointed by the Federal  
12 government. Forest Service is responsible for implementing the  
13 Federal subsistence regulations in Southeast Alaska.  
14 Subsistence hunting on land under State of Alaska jurisdiction  
15 is regulated by the Alaska Board of Game, members of which are  
16 appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature.  
17 ADF&G implements State of Alaska regulations.

18

19 MR. SCHROEDER: Thanks Mike. What we envision doing  
20 with each of these sections of information is basically  
21 providing it to you in detail with a first page that would give  
22 you bullets that would summarize the underlying complex data.  
23 So for example, Mim, if we were -- the section that will deal  
24 with logging history will include basically a first sheet that  
25 points your attention at some of the major things that we think  
26 we see in the data and then that would be backed up with the  
27 gory details for people like you who want to get into it.

28

29 And so that's basically how we see the organization. A  
30 lot of these things, say, even on the demography, there's one  
31 level that you can look at pretty easily and understand. But  
32 then we want to have that backed up in the document we produce  
33 with the detail so that, hopefully the detail would answer most  
34 any questions someone would come up with. So that's basically  
35 dealing with how we would plan to go through the existing data.  
36 And there are a couple of other things that possibly we didn't  
37 highlight completely in this summary that just came to my mind.  
38 We had talked with Kim and his guys and we will be including  
39 information that they look at and know best on things. For  
40 example, like deer pellet data which is something else that  
41 gives us an indication of what's going on with the deer  
42 population in Southeast Alaska, and other sources of  
43 information. I think there will be some hot breaking news from  
44 studies that will be going on this fall in looking at the wolf  
45 population. So Kim and his staff are obviously helping us out  
46 and will be feeding things into what goes before you.

47

48 So maybe this would be a good break before we talk  
49 about the new research to see if that looks like it would work  
50 for your purposes or if there are some areas that we just

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1 haven't been thinking of.

2

3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Our purpose is to provide opportunity  
4 for subsistence; is that what you had in mind with this study?

5

6 MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, Bill, what we see doing  
7 with this study is to give you the tools that you need to make  
8 recommendations on proposals before you and to have that  
9 information be as strong as it possibly can. And it's  
10 basically the Council's responsibility to figure out what  
11 decision to make.

12

13 MR. VALE: Bob, is the new study information you're  
14 about to refer to, is that the survey information of hunters  
15 that you referred to earlier?

16

17 MR. SCHROEDER: The new information is to -- Mike will  
18 go through what the field phase of this project will be and  
19 that will be key respondent interviews in study communities.

20

21 MR. VALE: Okay. So you're about to do that then?

22

23 MR. SCHROEDER: Yeah. We haven't talked about that  
24 yet.

25

26 MR. KITKA: I think the subsistence users would be more  
27 important than the wolves under Federal boundary program, you  
28 know there was a lot of deer on that Island. I talked to some  
29 of the oldtimers, Delmert, Sr., (ph) used to tell me there was  
30 deer all over when they cut the wolf population down. Today  
31 the estimate that Fish and Game came up with is almost 8,000  
32 deer that the wolves take compared to about 400 or 500 for  
33 human subsistence users. I think that we should consider doing  
34 something about it.

35

36 MS. GARZA: Thank you, Herman. Patti.

37

38 MS. PHILLIPS: Are you factoring in private lands in  
39 your estimates?

40

41 MR. SCHROEDER: Ms. Chairwoman, Patti, the models we  
42 have for deer are based on National Forest lands. And the  
43 assumption in the models is also that most of the productive  
44 old growth on the private lands, which in this case are Native  
45 Corporation selections has been logged or will be logged in the  
46 future so that the habitat value for most of that land is  
47 pretty low and it's not considered in these numbers.

48

49 MS. PHILLIPS: So like under wildlife and hunting, it  
50 says, habitat and models so that the Island can support about

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1 64,000 deer, that's just Federal lands?

2

3 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes. that would be Tongass National  
4 Forest lands.

5

6 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.

7

8 MS. GARZA: Okay. So you want to go -- John.

9

10 MR. FELLER: Thank you.

11

12 MS. GARZA: Gabe.

13

14 MR. GEORGE: Well, I'm getting ready to, I'm thinking  
15 about it.

16

17 MR. FELLER: Well, while you're thinking, I see on your  
18 charts there you had some yellow mark in Eckert Island, is that  
19 considered part of Prince of Wales C&T there or do you have any  
20 idea on that?

21

22 MR. SCHROEDER: John, the maps that we circulated  
23 around were ones that -- let's see we showed some of these to  
24 the Regional Council when you guys were looking at TLMP.

25

26 MR. FELLER: Yeah.

27

28 MR. SCHROEDER: And so then we were able to complete  
29 the work, so we completed this work so that we had -- we'd be  
30 able to look at the effects of logging throughout the Forest so  
31 that includes areas that aren't in GMU 2.

32

33 MR. FELLER: Okay.

34

35 MR. SCHROEDER: So if somebody -- if a community's  
36 hunting pattern or subsistence use pattern reaches out other  
37 places, then that's on those maps as well. I should mention,  
38 this is sort of an aside from this project, but we are using  
39 these maps to analyze where cutting is taking place on the  
40 Forest and where it's proposed. And for those of you who are  
41 interested in seeing the effects of TLMP, that's a work in  
42 progress. So obviously by using these maps and then having the  
43 information on where the cuts' taking place and where it's  
44 going to take place, you can see whether that cut is effecting  
45 people's most important subsistence areas or whether it's off a  
46 ways from them. But that's a different discussion.

47

48 MR. FELLER: Yeah, thank you. Thank you, Bob. Madam  
49 Chair, I just have one more question. You mentioned Port  
50 Protection and was that Point Baker, you had some input from

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1 those communities this last year, was it -- did they say they  
2 were for this -- should I put you on the spot and ask you if  
3 they were -- I think I got some information that said they were  
4 against the doe hunt?

5

6 MR. SCHROEDER: I'm going to let Point Baker and Port  
7 Protection represent themselves on these things.

8

9 MR. FELLER: Okay, they can stand on their own.

10

11 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, we did -- we were able to -- this  
12 last year, with State funding, we were able to do updating  
13 TRUCS household surveys, which is our basic harvest survey, how  
14 much of which species do people take in subsistence  
15 communities. We were able to do that in only a number of  
16 places in Southeast and Point Baker and Port Protection were  
17 two of the communities where we did that work. And our plan is  
18 if we're able to get funding, we'd be doing the other 10 Prince  
19 of Wales communities in February and March; but that's not  
20 lined up, that's in negotiations. And as we said the day  
21 before yesterday, we're working with Fred and our friends in  
22 the TLMP Staff to see if there's support for that. If we were  
23 able to proceed with that, we have a component, if we were  
24 doing a household survey in February and March, that would be  
25 the time when we could ask -- add it to -- and value questions  
26 such as whether people favor a doe hunt or didn't favor a doe  
27 hunt. Whether they favored some other regulatory change. We  
28 kind of talked about that but we're not very far on it because  
29 we're not sure we're able to do the work.

30

31 MR. FELLER: Thank you, Bob.

32

33 MR. MECUM: But we will be going to Port Protection and  
34 Point Baker with the field part of this deer project and asking  
35 them the questions, too, so they're on our list for communities  
36 to talk to.

37

38 MR. FELLER: Yeah, I just brought that up Madam Chair,  
39 because when I was halibut fishing I ran into one of their  
40 advisory members and he indicated that. Thank you.

41

42 MS. GARZA: Okay. I'm sure that will get proposals  
43 regarding the doe season on Prince of Wales, at least, from  
44 Jeff and perhaps from other people. And we do have other new  
45 business we need to bring up so we need to wrap this section  
46 up. Gabriel.

47

48 MR. GEORGE: Yes, I guess, you know, at this time what  
49 I think the Council would be interested in is if you intend to  
50 come up with some modeling type of program that would indicate

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1 should we impose some limitations on the deer hunting season in  
2 areas on POW, as happened in the past in terms of the sport  
3 hunters from Ketchikan and other -- in Juneau and all, and what  
4 would happen. And where we will be in the future should we  
5 have to, would there be any way to see some cause and effect in  
6 terms of limiting the sport hunters and continuing to  
7 subsistence hunt, so that'd maintain a population and all that.  
8 So bag limits, seasons, limitations, I think we also heard  
9 today there was some concern about wanton waste and that might  
10 be a good factor or question -- or research entity in your  
11 program in terms of what's happening on POW in terms of wanton  
12 waste and how to address that, whether methods, means and bag  
13 limits or whatever in terms of hunting deer and the waste of  
14 it.

15  
16 But I think the big thing in my mind is mapping and  
17 seeing a model of the sports hunting and its effect on  
18 subsistence hunters and the reduction thereof or the  
19 elimination thereof and, you know, just for an example, you  
20 know, in terms of what would happen if we have to address that  
21 scenario again. But I'd be interested in seeing how the maps  
22 look when some of those things are put in the formula or in a  
23 model, if that's, indeed, what you're aiming towards.

24  
25 Thank you.

26  
27 MR. SCHROEDER: Thanks, Gabe. I think that we'll have  
28 good detail on that. If it's okay with the Chair, we'll  
29 describe our field portion of this which we're really pretty  
30 interested in and I think it's going to be a good effort in  
31 bringing local knowledge into -- in an organized way into the  
32 process here. So may we have a few minutes on that, Bill.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah. It's interesting, I don't know  
35 if it's encouraging or not, I can't remember when I seen this  
36 kind of effort put into a project before. But I'm just  
37 wondering if this same project would've occurred had it not  
38 been for the doe season? What do you think?

39  
40 MR. SCHROEDER: I think the doe season, the wolf issue,  
41 Proposal 7, continuation of industrial scale logging on Prince  
42 of Wales Island, rapid population increase, I think we better  
43 pay attention.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What do you think should go away  
46 first? Logging? Marilyn.

47  
48 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if the  
49 Council could maybe add some questions, too, if we think of  
50 any, and it sounds like Gabe did think of one. And that was,

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1 maybe ask the respondents about if they have seen wanton waste,  
2 maybe that could be one of the questions. And if this Council  
3 has time to give you other questions that they might think of  
4 that might be important for our information, would we have time  
5 to do that as a Council?

6  
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What was that Marilyn?

8  
9 MS. WILSON: To add questions to the questionnaires  
10 that they're going to be asking the hunters and the tribal  
11 leaders and the city officials and subsistence hunters,  
12 everything?

13  
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I don't think we'll have that kind of  
15 time. See I think we're kind of wandering away from our  
16 charge. Our charge is to provide opportunity for subsistence.  
17 It doesn't ask us to be biologists. It doesn't ask us to be  
18 anthropologists. It doesn't ask us to be politicians. Our job  
19 is to provide opportunity for subsistence and that's it. I  
20 realize we're a good source for a lot of other projects and  
21 we're happy to do that. But at this particular time, we do  
22 have a community in crises, we need to vacate this area in a  
23 timely fashion with respect to the community, and I do really  
24 respect and appreciate your folks indulgence in helping us with  
25 that. I mentioned to the State earlier that they have 21  
26 minutes left on the presentation, so if we could use up that 21  
27 minutes, either in asking those kind of questions or however  
28 you feel would be the most productive, we'll go ahead and do  
29 that. But I did say an hour time limit and that brings us up  
30 to 11:00. So whatever the wish of the Council is, if it suits  
31 the panel, we'll go for it.

32  
33 MR. VALE: Let's move forward, Mr. Chairman, with the  
34 presentation.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

37  
38 MR. SCHROEDER: I hope we can come in under budget on  
39 the 11:00 o'clock, Mr. Chairman. So Mike will go through what  
40 the field phase of this project is and also what you'll get out  
41 of it. So what we'll do and then what's going to becoming at  
42 you.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

45  
46 MR. TUREK: The field project, which I'll be beginning  
47 probably on Monday, this research is going to be key respondent  
48 interviews and they'll be conducted in October and November in  
49 six to eight Prince of Wales communities and Ketchikan. The  
50 key respondents will be active hunters and known high

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1 harvesters, tribal leaders, city government leaders, ADF&G  
2 advisory committee members and others that know their  
3 communities well. They'll be chosen with local input and asked  
4 to represent their communities. A minimum of one and a maximum  
5 of five key respondent interviews will be done in each  
6 community. One or two key respondent interviews may be all  
7 that is needed for the smaller communities. The larger  
8 communities of Ketchikan, Craig and Klawock will require five  
9 interviews. Interviewers will follow an interview schedule with  
10 a maximum of 10 key question topics to be covered and  
11 interviews will take one to three hours.

12  
13 The questions are more of an outline than a  
14 questionnaire. And those questions we want to get answered,  
15 but we're going to leave it fairly open if other things come up  
16 during the interview that may be important that we didn't even  
17 think to ask, that will be included. Interviewers will be  
18 taking typed -- written or typed notes and we'll tape record  
19 and then we'll write up our responses immediately following the  
20 interviews. The interviews will be summarized for each  
21 community following completion of the work in the community.  
22 These interview summaries will appear in the final document.  
23 Staff will prepare a summary analysis of the community reports.  
24 And if funding is available, further data gathering on Prince  
25 of Wales Island will take place in February and March of '98.  
26 This next round of work will be household harvest surveys and  
27 it will be conducted in 10 Prince of Wales communities. In  
28 these surveys, we'll update what we know about subsistence  
29 harvest levels on the Island and measure public opinion  
30 attitudes on key fish and wildlife management issues.

31  
32 So that's pretty much what we have for the field  
33 section of the project right now.

34  
35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

36  
37 MS. GARZA: Mike, I have two questions for you, one,  
38 since we are in a bit of a rush here, if we have additional  
39 questions that we think might be good, can we give you a call  
40 and if so, by which date?

41  
42 MR. TUREK: Right. You can call the Craig Ranger  
43 Station and also you could, if you wanted to, you could fax  
44 them there because when I leave here, I'm heading for Prince of  
45 Wales. So that's no problem and we'd like your input. And  
46 I'll be talking with Jeff in more detail when I get down there.

47  
48 MS. GARZA: Okay. Will you also contact Vicky?

49  
50 MR. TUREK: Right, exactly right.

1 MS. GARZA: Okay, I have three questions. And then  
2 will this information come back to us by our February or March  
3 meeting since we will likely have proposals in front of us? Or  
4 could you keep in mind that we'd like.....

5  
6 MR. TUREK: Right.

7  
8 MS. GARZA: .....some version of the information?

9  
10 MR. TUREK: We've got a deadline for the draft, it will  
11 be completed by December 11th and then the final document  
12 should be completed by February 28th.

13  
14 MS. GARZA: Thanks.

15  
16 MR. TUREK: You'll be able to see the draft sometime in  
17 late December.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

20  
21 MR. VALE: Mike, I see you have a very low number of  
22 key respondent interviews there. You know, it seemed like this  
23 doe season was a really emotionally charged issue, particularly  
24 for those Prince of Wales Island communities. And I'm just  
25 wondering with that low number of interviews, if you're going  
26 to increase the likelihood of personal biases influencing the  
27 outcome of them.

28  
29 MR. TUREK: Well, that's something we talked about a  
30 lot, and we're limited by funding and time. So that's one  
31 reason we decided to go with the key respondent approach  
32 instead of doing a survey. So we're limited by time primarily.  
33 And that's why we're hoping to talk to people who really know  
34 about the deer hunting in their community. So we're not going  
35 to be talking to people in this project that may not have much  
36 to do with deer hunting.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Is this a project that's been  
39 conducted in any other management unit before?

40  
41 MR. TUREK: Pardon?

42  
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Has this kind of study happened in  
44 any other management unit before?

45  
46 MR. TUREK: Well, there has been other parts of the  
47 State. There has been these key respondent interviews, the  
48 Division has done this kind of work in other parts of the State  
49 on things like dall sheep and some fishing questions up in the  
50 Northwestern Alaska. So we've done this kind of thing in other



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1 parts of the State, but not in Southeast.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I see.

4  
5 MR. SCHROEDER: Just following up on that, Mr.  
6 Chairman, a lot of work that the Department does on the State  
7 side is providing briefing material for the Board of Fisheries  
8 and Board of Game and they basically are -- have been pretty  
9 demanding on what they want to know. So doing this sort of  
10 thing is not unusual in that context at all.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Has any of this been done with  
13 subsistence in mind?

14  
15 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes. The numbers study Mike was  
16 referring to that he reviewed in the process of working on his  
17 research design for this were done up in Northwest Alaska.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Was there any kind of a priority for  
20 subsistence?

21  
22 MR. SCHROEDER: Yes.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: There was?

25  
26 MR. SCHROEDER: Specifically -- maybe you can talk -- I  
27 don't know if we want to talk about the issue with sheep and I  
28 don't remember it real well. There were user conflicts in  
29 Northwest Alaska over certain features of subsistence sheep  
30 hunting as well as access questions and use of aircraft,  
31 sport/subsistence conflicts. And the goal of the research is  
32 to get some factual basis so that when the Boards in those two  
33 cases made decisions that were favorable to the subsistence  
34 communities had something to go by. So that's not on the  
35 Federal scheme of things, but that's the way it worked on the  
36 State.

37  
38 At the pleasure of the Chair, I'd like to invite, since  
39 I'm looking at the clock and I see I still have a couple of  
40 minutes left, to invite Dr. Titus up to talk about how his  
41 program in wildlife conservation is contributing information to  
42 how we understand what's going on the Prince of Wales.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

45  
46 MR. SCHROEDER: Doctor Titus worked very extensively on  
47 the Prince of Wales in connection with the TLMP revision and  
48 the Department work there. So not only is he the regional  
49 supervisor for the area, but he has a personal knowledge of  
50 biology of that area.

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

2  
3 MR. TITUS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thanks Bob for  
4 the opportunity to address the Council. We are going to work  
5 with subsistence division. I just wanted to emphasize a couple  
6 sources of other information that are available to you, I think  
7 you're somewhat aware of them, but I wanted to emphasize some  
8 things that we've been doing in wildlife conservation before I  
9 came to the Department. The first of those is the deer survey  
10 that the Division of Wildlife Conservation has conducted since  
11 1980. It does certain things fairly well, we believe, and it  
12 doesn't do some things fairly well and that's hence why there's  
13 an interest in getting some more information from those  
14 communities.

15  
16 One of the advantages of the deer survey that we  
17 conduct, and it costs us about 40 to \$50,000 a year to do the  
18 deer survey across Southeast Alaska is, for example, this past  
19 year, we had about 11,500 permits from across Southeast Alaska.  
20 Of those, we sent these little mail out cards to over 3,600  
21 people, and of course, that emphasizes the larger communities,  
22 Sitka, Juneau, Ketchikan, Craig, and Petersburg and so on. Of  
23 those 3,600 surveys we got 2,100 of them back. So we had a 58  
24 percent response rate from people that chose to mail those back  
25 to us. And for example, on Prince of Wales Island, I just did  
26 some quick arithmetic and it appears that on POW in GMU 2 we  
27 sent out 537 permits to residents of Prince of Wales Island and  
28 we got 278 of those back. So our objective is largely to look  
29 at the large picture in contrast to getting detailed  
30 information from individuals and try to estimate things across  
31 an island wide area, such as Prince of Wales or Admiralty  
32 Island and we think it does fairly well at that scale. And we  
33 anticipate continuing to do that over time. For one thing, at  
34 least this allows us to track things over a long period, and  
35 now we have 18 years of information on that. And every year we  
36 have a discussion and this past year we had a lengthy  
37 discussion with Forest Service staff about how we should or  
38 shouldn't change that survey, specifically on Prince of Wales  
39 and try to get information about doe harvest and so on and so  
40 forth. That's one source of information.

41  
42 Another source of information is a long term  
43 cooperative program with the Forest Service with regard to deer  
44 pellet surveys. And once again, the emphasis on that is over  
45 the long term and trying to look at trends in deer numbers.  
46 And this past year on Prince of Wales Island, both the  
47 Department of Fish and Game and the Forest Service emphasized  
48 Prince of Wales because of last years controversy trying to get  
49 the best possible information we could. In fact, we increased  
50 the deer pellet surveys with the Forest Service about eight

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1 times in terms of the intensity on Prince of Wales that we had  
2 done in the past, just trying to get better estimates. And in  
3 fact, we learned from that that the deer pellet data has  
4 remained remarkably constant on Prince of Wales Island over a  
5 number of years.

6  
7 So those are the sources of information. We anticipate  
8 continuing to collect that and if the Council desires to have  
9 that broken down in some different ways as opposed to the way  
10 we would do it, we would sure like to entertain that with you.  
11 In fact, we do have your letter and intend on responding to it,  
12 Mr. Thomas, here shortly. We're trying to work on some  
13 modeling exercises with regard to deer and wolf numbers on  
14 Prince of Wales Island. So it is getting a lot of attention in  
15 our office and I think we'll come in under your deadline that  
16 you're looking for.

17  
18 I'd just like to emphasize a few other things. One  
19 thing that hasn't been mentioned here is that the wolves on  
20 Prince of Wales Island and the wolves in Southeast Alaska, the  
21 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced a not  
22 warranted finding under the Endangered Species Act. I would  
23 emphasize that that matter is still under litigation in Federal  
24 Court in Washington, D.C., by the environmental groups that put  
25 forward that litigation with regard to the wolf and the goshawk  
26 in Southeast Alaska. So that's still out there on the legal  
27 horizon. But I want to emphasize that it's in court in  
28 Washington, D.C.

29  
30 Another thing I want to emphasize that I am actually in  
31 the process of hiring a predator/prey biologist who's going to  
32 be based in Ketchikan to work on wolf and deer issues and  
33 research and management issues on Prince of Wales Island for  
34 the Department because these issues aren't going away and we  
35 need better biological information to give to both you and the  
36 Alaska Board of Game relative to regulatory decisions.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The reason we ask for that  
39 information, I haven't run into anybody that hunts for pellets,  
40 so.

41  
42 MR. VALE: Except for biologists.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Except for biologists.

45  
46 MR. TITUS: So I guess in summary I just wanted to say  
47 that for the Division of Wildlife and Conservation's  
48 perspective we are trying to get as good of information as we  
49 can out there. Understanding wolf and deer, predator/prey  
50 information in the influence of a hunting situation is a very

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1 complicated issue as you all know. Well, from my training as a  
2 biologists, it also continues to be very complicated separating  
3 out the impacts between weather and hunting and who's killing  
4 the deer. Whether they're residents of Prince of Wales Island  
5 or residents of Ketchikan. It's all very complicated.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Actually we don't find it  
8 complicating, we find it emotional and political.

9  
10 MR. TITUS: Yeah.

11  
12 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

13  
14 MS. GARZA: I guess, Mike, could we get a fax or a  
15 phone number for the Craig Ranger district from you some time?

16  
17 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Marilyn.

20  
21 MS. WILSON: What is the time limit to send questions  
22 that we would like to see included in the questionnaire?

23  
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: This afternoon.

25  
26 MR. TUREK: If you could get them to me by early next  
27 week, that would be the best bet. Monday would be ideal.  
28 Yeah, today would be the best bet.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Any questions. Jeff.

31  
32 MR. NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I just had a question for  
33 the gentlemen when they do their survey, you know, you have  
34 down village leaders or tribal leaders. Are you going to say,  
35 are there designee, you know, we may have someone who's sitting  
36 behind a desk all of the time? You know, I know of one person  
37 you're going to probably approach and she's probably never been  
38 hunting a day in her life, you know.

39  
40 MR. TUREK: For this project we're mainly interested in  
41 people who are very knowledgeable about hunting. So we put  
42 tribal leaders on there for people to be contacting, but the  
43 people we'll be interviewing will be the ones most  
44 knowledgeable about their community's hunting pattern. So it  
45 will be a process of elimination, talking with people like  
46 yourself about the community of Klawock, and who are the people  
47 that know about where the community hunts.

48  
49 MR. NICKERSON: Thank you.

50

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1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Now, on this survey, is anything  
2 mentioned about subsistence especially on the Prince of Wales;  
3 is that part of your discussion?  
4

5 MR. TUREK: Right. A number of the questions address  
6 that. And that's the primary emphasis of the questions, about  
7 subsistence hunting on Prince of Wales.  
8

9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.  
10

11 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.  
12

13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.  
14

15 MS. GARZA: Get your pen out. The phone number in  
16 Craig is 826-3851, if you don't catch Mike before we all get on  
17 the plane today. The fax number is 826-2972, and I guess you  
18 could either fax it to Mike or in care of Roadkill Johnson.  
19

20 MR. JOHNSON: 3851 is my home number.  
21

22 MS. GARZA: Oh, okay.  
23

24 MR. JOHNSON: You could call that too.  
25

26 MS. GARZA: You could call David at 3:00 a.m. and  
27 bother him and let him know what your changes are.  
28

29 MR. JOHNSON: 3271 is actually the district office  
30 number.  
31

32 MS. GARZA: Okay. So 826-3271 is the district office  
33 number.  
34

35 MR. VALE: And you can call anytime of day.  
36

37 MR. JOHNSON: Not at night.  
38

39 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.  
40

41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Fred.  
42

43 MR. CLARK: You all have my 800 number, you can also  
44 just call me there anytime of day, you'll get my answering  
45 machine.  
46

47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, you got anything else you want  
48 to deliver in five minutes?  
49

50 MR. SCHROEDER: Well, I don't know, I've never been

00209

1 known to give up a microphone, Mr. Chairman. But thanks very  
2 much and.....

3  
4 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I got a friend with the plug on the  
5 other end.

6  
7 MR. SCHROEDER: Just thanks very much for your  
8 attention and quite clearly we'll be working with the Council  
9 members who live on Prince of Wales a lot, and we'll be  
10 depending on them for some guidance, particularly in  
11 identifying people to interview and to discussing these issues  
12 over the next six weeks.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. But bear in mind those Council  
15 members that live on Prince of Wales, their principal target is  
16 to provide subsistence opportunities.

17  
18 MR. SCHROEDER: Got you. So I think we've come under  
19 budget here by five minutes, Mr. Chairman.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Good job.

22  
23 MR. SCHROEDER: Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you.

26  
27 (Applause)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It wasn't that good.

30  
31 MS. McCONNELL: Five minutes is great.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, we'll use up the rest of the  
34 three minutes on break.

35  
36 (Off record)

37 (On record)

38  
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, we're back to order. Most of  
40 what we have left to do involves writing, such as  
41 correspondence and this kind of thing. But we're going to  
42 author them with the language read until we get a good  
43 understanding and then we'll act on them and then we'll have  
44 them put to the typewritten form as soon as we can. Is that  
45 agreeable with everybody? Thank you.

46  
47 MR. VALE: Yes.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We're going to move things around  
50 just a little bit, we're going to do Item I before Item H,

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1 we're going to do the resolution to Mr. Babbitt before we get  
2 to Mim's list. Dolly.

3  
4 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I guess I brought this up  
5 because I think that we need to respond to the actions that  
6 were taken by Senator Stevens in submitting his rider to the  
7 Senate Appropriations Bill and his request that Senator Babbitt  
8 not veto anything that goes to the President. This was handed  
9 out to us yesterday morning and I drafted a resolution in  
10 response to the major points that were put in this document  
11 which is the Statement of Secretary Babbitt on Alaska  
12 Subsistence Proposal and Interior Appropriations Conference and  
13 the following detail of the Federal takeover of fisheries by  
14 David Whitney. I did draft a resolution and I would be willing  
15 to work with Fred and Bill and whoever else would like to work  
16 on it.

17  
18 But the intent of the resolution is whereas, the State  
19 Legislature and the Legislative hearings, which are ongoing,  
20 have largely been against the Constitutional Amendment  
21 providing for subsistence preference. Whereas, Senator  
22 Stevens' proposal will give greater deference to the State if  
23 it is enacted. Whereas, the Alaska Federation of Natives have  
24 sharply criticized the proposal submitted by Senator Stevens  
25 and feels that it erodes existing Federal policy. And whereas,  
26 it appears that even after the hearings that the State will not  
27 enact a Constitutional Amendment. And further that, the  
28 proposal that Senator Stevens has tossed into the Senate  
29 Appropriations Bill has not even come to Alaska for Alaskans to  
30 consider. I have it resolved that the Southeast Regional  
31 Subsistence Advisory Council opposes such proposal being  
32 attached to the Senate Appropriations Bill and further, that we  
33 request that Interior Secretary Babbitt recommend Clinton to  
34 veto it if it goes forward. And so I'm bringing this forward  
35 and I know I don't like things that are not in writing,  
36 however, I think this needs to go back to D.C. as soon as  
37 possible so I don't think it can wait until our March meeting.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Can you read the last resolved that  
40 you read?

41  
42 MS. GARZA: Further be it resolved, the Southeast  
43 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council requests that the  
44 Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt recommend President Clinton to  
45 veto this if it is included in the Conference Bill.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you.

48  
49 MS. GARZA: And I guess the other further resolved I  
50 was going to throw in there was that we support Federal

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1 management of fisheries, but that's not something we've  
2 discussed so I didn't want to throw it in and then get all into  
3 a long conversation about it. So it speaks pretty much  
4 specifically to what Senator Stevens has done, even though we  
5 haven't seen it, I've taken the points from the memo that came  
6 to us by fax yesterday.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

9  
10 MR. VALE: Dolly, then are you describing this as a  
11 rough draft that would be refined slightly before its final  
12 form?

13  
14 MS. GARZA: Yes. What I would recommend is that we  
15 approve it in principal and have the Chairman and the Regional  
16 Coordinator and whoever else is interested in working on it  
17 before we leave at 5:00 today, and then get it off. Because I  
18 think it should either go out today or tomorrow, the sooner the  
19 better.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Would you like the Chairman to hand  
22 deliver that?

23  
24 MS. GARZA: Yeah.

25  
26 MR. VALE: I move to adopt the resolution, Mr.  
27 Chairman.

28  
29 MR. KITKA: Second.

30  
31 MS. McCONNELL: Second.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Moved and second. Question. Any  
34 discussion.

35  
36 MS. WILSON: Question.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: All those in favor say aye.

39  
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Opposed same sign.

43  
44 (No opposing responses)

45  
46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. Where's Mim's list.

47  
48 MS. GARZA: Thank you.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Oh, sure, any time.



1 MS. McCONNELL: Okay, I had a list of a number of  
2 things, some of which have been taken care of. Let's see one  
3 of them that I guess was taken care of, I've got a checkmark  
4 next to it dealing with timber sales. I guess John had made a  
5 request, boy it's amazing how you forget things, dealing with  
6 being involved early on in the process of planning timber  
7 sales. That the Subsistence Council would like to be involved  
8 in that process. Do you remember, John, what you did?

9  
10 MR. VALE: Yes. Exactly.

11  
12 MS. McCONNELL: Was that -- I can't remember what form  
13 your request took, could you refresh my memory?

14  
15 MR. VALE: My request was that, inasmuch as possible,  
16 the Forest Service give us the opportunity to provide comments  
17 during the public comment period during the development of  
18 timber sales to more adequately participate in the 810 hearing  
19 process.

20  
21 MS. McCONNELL: Okay. So I had kind of a version of a  
22 letter that could be used in commenting on timber sales when  
23 dealing with when subsistence would be impacted by the proposed  
24 timber sale. So I don't know what to do with that letter,  
25 whether that's something we would still want to use or not or  
26 whether we want to -- I guess, I'm trying to figure out what  
27 the objective is here, what the best plan of attack is, how the  
28 Council wants to deal with timber sales? I suppose maybe kind  
29 of partly depends upon the response that we get to that request  
30 that you made John. It looks like Fred maybe has a comment.

31  
32 MR. CLARK: Just an observation. It seemed to me in  
33 talking with people as we were putting together the annual  
34 report last year, that the main concern was that the Council  
35 wasn't being involved early enough in the process. Sometimes  
36 Council members would get the material that would announce  
37 hearings or draft versions of EAs or EISs, but the concern was  
38 getting involved maybe at the ground floor.

39  
40 MS. McCONNELL: Right.

41  
42 MR. CLARK: And that would mean being involved at the  
43 scoping stage rather than after everything's already been put  
44 together into alternative forms. The Council could even be  
45 involved in developing alternatives in the areas that they're  
46 interested in. And to do that you'd have to write a letter to  
47 the area planning officers to that effect. You could include  
48 that approach along with the approach that Mim was just talking  
49 about, in terms of being more involved or writing specific  
50 letters concerning specific timber sales after they're already

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1 through the scoping process and into the final stages of  
2 planning. So you know, there's two different sort of aspects.  
3 How do you get the Council involved on the ground floor. And  
4 that's going to take a lot of personal interaction with the  
5 planners at the -- especially at the area level, but at the  
6 district level as well.

7  
8 MR. VALE: My response, I guess, to that would be, my  
9 interest -- what I wanted was in my statement and request was,  
10 I've been reviewing all the proposed timber sales, believe it  
11 or not, and you know, I guess I find it difficult to, as a  
12 Council member, to really have substantive comments on them  
13 early on. What I wanted to have the opportunity to do is when  
14 the people who are effected by these proposed timber sales have  
15 a chance to review and analyze them and see how they're  
16 effected, I wanted them to have the opportunity to bring  
17 concerns to us and then have us to be able to then have the  
18 opportunity to recommend changes to these proposed timber  
19 sales. Either early enough to have them actuated or to be  
20 involved in the 810 hearing process and make comments in that  
21 process. So that's kind of the direction my mind was going  
22 with it.

23  
24 MS. McCONNELL: That sounds good. But I'm just not  
25 sure of the logistics. I'm not sure how we're supposed to go  
26 about doing this because we only meet twice a year. So how can  
27 the Council be involved when it's not a part of our meeting  
28 cycle?

29  
30 MR. CLARK: Sue, maybe you could help me out with this.  
31 Is it possible for subcommittees of the Council to meet in a  
32 non-decision making sort of situation, like meetings with  
33 planning staff from agencies to gather information that would  
34 then be distributed to other Council members? Let's say that  
35 there was a land management project that was going on around  
36 Sitka that Dolly and Herman might go in and talk to the  
37 planners there about what's going on with the project and then  
38 they could then bring that information to the Council as a  
39 whole, either at their meetings or through mail outs through my  
40 office.

41  
42 MS. DETWILER: My understanding of FACA is that groups  
43 of people from the Council can meet informally as long as they  
44 don't make any decisions or appear to be caucusing to come up  
45 with decisions before the Council actually meets in public  
46 session.

47  
48 MR. CLARK: So that would mean that you could gather  
49 information in direct interaction with planning officers,  
50 individually or in smaller groups, and then bring that

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1 information back to the Council when it meets as a whole and  
2 then make the decisions in session as a Council. The other  
3 option would be to have special meetings of the Council as a  
4 whole, but then that's a funding and a time problem, you know,  
5 how that impacts Council members.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We can meet in executive committee.  
8 An executive then will have the authority as given by members  
9 of the rest of the Council to carry out whatever assignment  
10 they want them to do.

11  
12 MR. CLARK: Except for making decisions without a  
13 quorum.

14  
15 MS. DETWILER: You could also have a teleconference as  
16 long as there's adequate public notice and ability for the  
17 public to attend.

18  
19 MR. CLARK: That's true.

20  
21 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We'll do it like the State, they'll  
22 allow us to, but not require.

23  
24 MR. VALE: Also I think that would be a good process to  
25 follow. And as a follow-up on that, you know, because of these  
26 timber sales do take some time to develop, it seems to me that  
27 the Forest Service does have the opportunity to schedule the  
28 public comment periods during one of our meetings, you know,  
29 fall/winter. You know, I know they do these in advance and it  
30 seems like there should be some degree of flexibility there  
31 with the Forest Service in scheduling their comment periods and  
32 their 810 hearings.

33  
34 MR. CLARK: I was just looking in the audience to see  
35 if there were any people that work on Forest Service planning  
36 staffs on a regular basis like Ted, who may be able to give us  
37 some insight of how that might play out, you know, in  
38 interacting with the planning folks. Do you have any ideas  
39 Ted?

40  
41 MR. SCKIENK: For the record, Ted Sckienk, Chatham area  
42 wildlife biologist, Mr. Chairman and John, Mim. One of the  
43 things about our Forest Service EIS's is that the birthing  
44 process takes a while. And usually from early scoping to final  
45 EIS's is a long period of time. It would likely span at least  
46 one or maybe two years, which would cover some of your fall or  
47 spring meetings. And so within your normal schedule, it's  
48 likely that the Forest Service projects would have some type of  
49 scoping going on at that time. The thought occurred to me that  
50 if this Council were particularly interested in particular

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1 timber sales, that you could request a presentation at your  
2 meetings for input into that and during those times when  
3 comment periods would be legitimate.

4  
5 Now, with that said, I also feel that those of you that  
6 are in the effected communities have a very good opportunity to  
7 participate with the planning teams through the districts right  
8 now and I'd certainly encourage you to do that. We just had  
9 community meetings in Tenakee for the Finger Mountain EIS that  
10 we're working on in the Chatham area. It was last Saturday, a  
11 week ago Saturday, so that more people could attend, so there  
12 is that opportunity as an individual from your community to  
13 participate. And should you collectively or individually hear  
14 of a timber sale that you'd like to have more comment on and  
15 would like to participate in, I would encourage you to work  
16 through the planning officers to work together. We'd be glad  
17 to allow that opportunity and certainly I'd encourage it.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, Mim, you got a whole list of  
20 stuff there and we need to move through. If you can get us to  
21 a point to where we can agree to have it done then we can work  
22 out the language at another time.

23  
24 MS. McCONNELL: Well, the example that Ted just gave of  
25 the Tenakee meeting there and the Finger Mountain sale, it  
26 would have been good to have heard about that at this meeting  
27 so that we could have maybe offered some comments on it. Is  
28 there -- so maybe, I don't know what -- I don't know where they  
29 are, are they in the scoping process, are they beyond that now,  
30 can that one be brought up at the next meeting and commented on  
31 at that time or do we need to comment on it before then? Maybe  
32 at each meeting or maybe we need to be receiving a summary of  
33 what projects are going on around Southeast so that we're  
34 always aware of -- I mean I know I get in the mail something on  
35 a particular area, but I mean at this point in time, I don't  
36 know what projects are going on right now or where they're at.

37  
38 MR. SCKIENK: For your information we put together a  
39 quarterly schedule of proposed actions for the Forest Service  
40 and send that out.

41  
42 MS. McCONNELL: Yeah, I've seen that.

43  
44 MR. SCKIENK: And with your permission, I can see to it  
45 that you're added to that list.

46  
47 MS. McCONNELL: I'm on it.

48  
49 MR. SCKIENK: So that you get all of that information  
50 every quarter so that you know where we're going and that kind

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1 of thing.

2

3 MS. McCONNELL: Yeah.

4

5 MR. SCKIENK: And if you're interested, I could see to  
6 it that you're put on the list of scoping for our ID teams so  
7 that you get those mailings. Now recognize as an agency we can  
8 generate a lot of projects and a lot of paperwork and that kind  
9 of thing, but we do have a fairly formal process to keep you  
10 notified.

11

12 MS. McCONNELL: Um-hum.

13

14 MR. SCKIENK: And if it's the Council's wishes to do  
15 that, I think between Fred and the rest of us we could make it  
16 so.

17

18 MS. McCONNELL: What I'd like to see maybe at each  
19 meeting is an update on timber sales at that meeting, of what's  
20 going on for each one, even just a summary, and maybe at that  
21 time we would want to comment on a particular sale or  
22 something. Does that sound like a good step at this time,  
23 Council members?

24

25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

26

27 MS. GARZA: I'm not sure I'm on every mailing list, but  
28 I certainly get a lot of things from Forest Service and I guess  
29 what I face is that there's so much it's sort of hard to get  
30 through it all and perhaps we could do two things. Sort of if  
31 Fred could watch over and see if there's issues that he thinks  
32 that we need to address and then if we could get a summary at  
33 each meeting of, you know, I mean a paragraph for each project  
34 or for each timber sale so that we have an idea of what's up, I  
35 think that would be real helpful.

36

37 MS. McCONNELL: Okay. I'll go ahead and move on to the  
38 next thing on my list; is that okay?

39

40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yep, yep.

41

42 MS. McCONNELL: Okay, another issue, apparently I heard  
43 that there was an appeal filed by, I think, five tribes in  
44 Southeast concerning TLMP. I don't have a lot of information  
45 about that, but I was interested in seeing about sending in an  
46 intervention letter and you have 20 days after last Thursday to  
47 send a letter of intervention. Their appeal was based on the  
48 issue of subsistence is what I understand. And so I don't have  
49 a letter to offer at this time, but I would like to see one  
50 written up and sent in on their behalf.

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1 MR. VALE: Mim, it's not a bad idea but I don't see how  
2 we can present a letter when we don't know what the grounds the  
3 appeals are being based on. We need to review those appeals  
4 before I think we can really draft any letters or become a part  
5 of it there. So I don't know, that's just my first thoughts on  
6 it. Maybe we can get copies of that information and see if we  
7 think it's enough there to warrant a special meeting or  
8 something.

9  
10 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman, I think I can get my hands on  
11 copies of the appeal and mail those out to the Council members  
12 for their review. As far as writing a letter of intervention  
13 as a FACA committee, I'm not sure that's legal and we'd have to  
14 look into that. I'm sure that the Council can write a letter  
15 with no problem, but whether it's actually a letter of  
16 intervention or not we may have to look into what the Council's  
17 responsibilities and you know, how far that goes. But we can  
18 look into that, too, if it's the Council's wishes.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We seem to be getting creative anyway  
21 with our role, so that wouldn't hurt anything.

22  
23 MS. McCONNELL: Is anyone aware of their particular  
24 tribe being involved in this appeal?

25  
26 MS. GARZA: It looks like STA is outside, could you  
27 knock on the window and get Marty. Perhaps what we could do  
28 Mim to sort of speed things along is to get that appeal and  
29 give the Chairman the direction to draft a letter that would  
30 indicate this body's support for the protection of  
31 subsistence.....

32  
33 MS. McCONNELL: Um-hum.

34  
35 MS. GARZA: .....that would go with that.

36  
37 MS. McCONNELL: Um-hum.

38  
39 MS. GARZA: But I don't know which of the five tribes  
40 have filed the appeal. Marty, did STA appeal part of TLMP?

41  
42 MR. MARTIN: The STA did.

43  
44 MS. GARZA: Was that Nakwasina/Lisa Creek.

45  
46 MR. MARTIN: The Lisa Creek area, yeah.

47  
48 MS. GARZA: Okay.

49  
50 MR. MARTIN: Wade Martin for the record. As far as I

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1 know, yeah, our tribal court attorneys and our law and trust  
2 department did, and that was for the -- I'm pretty sure it was  
3 the Lisa Creek area and I think around up around St. John,  
4 those tracts of land.

5

6 MS. McCONNELL: Marty, do you know about a joint appeal  
7 that was filed by some tribes concerning subsistence?

8

9 MR. MARTIN: No, I don't.

10

11 MS. McCONNELL: It seems like there was five tribes  
12 that were involved in an appeal. So you don't know whether STA  
13 was involved in that?

14

15 MR. MARTIN: No, I don't.

16

17 MS. McCONNELL: Okay. Well, then Fred maybe you could  
18 go ahead and figure out whether -- I mean maybe that was  
19 erroneous information I got.

20

21 MR. CLARK: Well, I do know that there was an appeal  
22 filed, I think STA was involved with it. They were trying to  
23 get Tlingit and Haida to join in that appeal and I'm sure --  
24 and I think they were trying to get other tribes the last time  
25 I saw it. I don't know who had joined into that appeal. It  
26 was based on their interpretation of Section 810 from the  
27 advice of J Pate (ph) from Sitka Tribe and from Tom Waldo from  
28 the Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund.

29

30 MS. McCONNELL: Okay.

31

32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

33

34 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman, I guess I would like to  
35 direct the Chairman and Regional Advisory Council Coordinator  
36 to draft a letter in support of subsistence protections that  
37 may be brought up in the tribal appeals from Southeast.

38

39 MS. McCONNELL: Sounds good.

40

41 MS. GARZA: So that's sort of -- as tough as you can  
42 get with still staying within whatever legal guidelines that we  
43 have to operate around.

44

45 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman.

46

47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

48

49 MR. VALE: Inasmuch as I almost desperately want to  
50 support this action, I have a lot of trouble with it without

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1 knowing what the grounds of the appeals are. And I think we  
2 really need to review that information before we get on the  
3 band wagon writing letters.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Gabe.

6  
7 MR. GEORGE: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I read a  
8 little bit about the appeal and it was in the newspaper and it  
9 did identify five tribes. The appeal was based on harvesting  
10 old growth timber that is essential to deer habitat and  
11 subsistence and that's about all it said in there. Angoon IRA  
12 was one of the tribes that also filed along with Sitka Tribes,  
13 and I don't know who the other tribes were. Nels Lawson is a  
14 tribal liaison, I wonder if he has any information to that that  
15 would give some light to what we're discussing here.

16  
17 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Nels.

18  
19 MR. LAWSON: I do not have any further information to  
20 add other than that the appeal has been filed. It was Sitka  
21 Tribe led the way, but who the other tribes are, I do not know  
22 and the details of the basis for their appeal, I have not seen  
23 that yet.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

26  
27 MS. GARZA: John, I certainly understand your concerns  
28 for supporting something when we don't have it in front of us,  
29 and I guess my concern is that 20 day window that we may have  
30 to operate around. So perhaps what we could do is draft that  
31 letter and fax it out to the Council member and if there are  
32 noted objections, then we would reformat the letter so that it  
33 meets, you know, so that it doesn't extend beyond what we feel  
34 comfortable with.

35  
36 MR. VALE: I'd find that acceptable if we could get  
37 copies of those appeals along with the letter.

38  
39 MS. RUDOLPH: Mr. Chairman.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mary.

42  
43 MS. RUDOLPH: Mr. Chairman, I think Hoonah was involved  
44 with it, Kake, Sitka, Angoon, I can't remember the fifth one.  
45 I should have brought all the papers with me but totally forgot  
46 about it, so my apologies to the Council. But we had, I think  
47 been working with Sitka from the beginning because of the  
48 amount of logging that was being done in the Hoonah area. So I  
49 think it would be great if the Council could write a letter of  
50 support during this time because right now it's to the point



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1 where I think a lot of people are getting discouraged about  
2 moving ahead and trying to protect what they feel is right and  
3 feeling that no one is supporting their concerns. I think  
4 Hoonah would appreciate a letter of support. Thank you.

5  
6 MS. McCONNELL: Okay, I'll move on.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Move on.

9  
10 MS. McCONNELL: Okay, another issue -- another letter I  
11 was interested in, again, I don't have a letter to offer. Fred  
12 and I had talked briefly about maybe about maybe trying to get  
13 some information on road credits, and I don't think that ever  
14 happened the last couple of days here. But I was interested in  
15 the Council writing a letter to President Clinton and sending a  
16 copy to the delegation opposing the decision to continue  
17 subsidizing the timber industry by means of having road  
18 building credits.

19  
20 This is -- I don't know if I need to go into detail on  
21 what I'm talking about with road credits or not. But I thought  
22 it might be good to get on the record and make sure that  
23 Clinton knows that we're opposed to road credits and I heard  
24 that he's probably going to veto that part of the Bill, but a  
25 little support wouldn't hurt.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

28  
29 MR. VALE: Mr. Chairman, you know, I hate being the  
30 thorn in the side here, but my first impression is that we're  
31 getting too far afield from true subsistence here and into the  
32 politics around timber harvest management.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

35  
36 MS. GARZA: I guess I would have to disagree with that,  
37 John. I'm sorry, but I think that what -- I mean that's what  
38 makes timber harvesting in Southeast Alaska so easy and  
39 affordable is that they get free roads and if we didn't have  
40 it, the timber industry would surely change to the benefit of  
41 subsistence users. So I certainly would support the  
42 elimination of road credits.

43  
44 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Fred.

47  
48 MR. CLARK: I did have a conversation with Steve  
49 Kessler about this issue before he left. And he tried to  
50 explain to me how the road credit system works and how

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1 communities get -- the money that they get from the timber  
2 harvest, how that comes off the -- off of the bid amount and  
3 then the road credits come off after that, and how eliminating  
4 the credits might effect the amount of money that communities  
5 get. That was just one issue that we talked about.

6  
7 But the more he talked about it, the more I realized  
8 that it's very, very complicated and the impacts both for and  
9 against are more than I could comprehend just in a short  
10 conversation with him. What we might want to do then is get --  
11 I've already alerted to him that the Council would be wanting  
12 more information about road credits so he's probably working on  
13 that already. We could get more information on road credits to  
14 the Council for your deliberation and to use in drafting a  
15 letter should you decide to do that. But it seems to be a very  
16 complicated sort of arrangement that I really don't understand.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

19  
20 MR. VALE: I think that's a better approach than for us  
21 trying to deal with issues like this without really having all  
22 the facts and all the information and understanding the full  
23 realm of what it is we're diving into here. So I would like  
24 that approach. We always have the opportunity of calling  
25 special meetings if we feel that any of these issues are  
26 serious enough that need further action.

27  
28 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Patti.

29  
30 MS. PHILLIPS: I almost feel like we're getting into  
31 micromanagement issues and I agree with what John Vale had to  
32 say.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Gabe.

35  
36 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of  
37 things, I believe that the proposed study that we just heard on  
38 the deer on POW is going to address roads and what road credits  
39 has done and hasn't done for us historically in changing deer  
40 harvest patterns in all the communities in Southeast. I don't  
41 think that it's a very simple straight forward issue as whether  
42 you're for or against road credits and all. Certainly they're  
43 taking our money and spending it on our forests to harvest our  
44 timber and it's an economical, political, social, every kind of  
45 issue that you want to put to it. And I don't know if there's  
46 any answer that I have or anyone has that would be simple and  
47 positive.

48  
49 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I think Dolly's got an answer here.

50

00222

1 MS. GARZA: Well, I guess, Mr. Chairman, hearing no  
2 consensus, I think that we need to pull the information  
3 together for the next meeting.

4  
5 MS. McCONNELL: I was going to suggest the same thing.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

8  
9 MS. McCONNELL: Next on my list.....

10  
11 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We're halfway there guys.

12  
13 MS. McCONNELL: Okay, this next one is actually kind of  
14 two parts. One of it was concerning the incidental bycatch of  
15 chinook salmon by commercial fishermen. And I spoke with some  
16 of the Fish and Game people and it sounds like that issue needs  
17 to -- well, I know that it needs to be a part of the Board of  
18 Fish cycle and they just met in Southeast last winter, so it's  
19 going to be a while before we can take that up. So I'm going  
20 to be pursuing that and working with the Department to come up  
21 with a proposal that I would bring back to the Council when  
22 it's appropriate for the Board of Fish schedule. So I just  
23 wanted to update you on what I learned from them about that and  
24 what I had proposed.

25  
26 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mim, yesterday you asked what the  
27 response was to the letter from the Council, they didn't  
28 respond to the Council. What they responded to was a letter  
29 from me trying to get a specific answer from them and some  
30 possible way of terminating that practice. And the response I  
31 got was to attend the upcoming meeting that was going to be in  
32 Ketchikan scheduled for two weeks. It happened while we were  
33 in Sitka, and it lasted five days and they were all through.  
34 So when I went to testify there wasn't any meeting left.

35  
36 MS. McCONNELL: Okay. Well, thank you for your efforts  
37 and it sounds like we should deal with this through the  
38 proposal process anyway. So I'll be bringing it back to the  
39 Council later.

40  
41 Then the other issue that I had mentioned at that Sitka  
42 meeting was my concern about hatcheries and their production of  
43 stock that are mixing with wild stock. And I, again, was  
44 talking with the Fish and Game people here and I'm going to be  
45 pursuing that also this winter. It sounds like I need to talk  
46 with Doug Mecum and it looks like he's gone already, so I'll be  
47 trying to get a hold of him in Juneau this winter. And it  
48 sounds like maybe there's some studies out there and some  
49 information and I'm going to be pursuing that. And hopefully  
50 I'll have some more information about it for our next meeting

00223

1 and would just request at that time I'll -- if I have enough  
2 information, I'll request that it be put on the agenda or at  
3 least give an update on what I've learned. Does that sound  
4 okay?

5  
6 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Sounds good.

7  
8 MS. McCONNELL: That's all I had, can you believe it?

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.,

11  
12 MS. WILSON: No.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Anything else before we move on under  
15 -- let's see there was something else. Dolly.

16  
17 MS. GARZA: While we figure out what else we have to  
18 do, I would like to request that we pass the hat and take a  
19 collection for the two deaths that have occurred in Yakutat.  
20 And so I looked around and the cleanest hat I could find was  
21 Herman's, so can I use your hat Herman? Can I use your hat?

22  
23 MR. KITKA: That's fine.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Give 'em your per diem check.

26  
27 (Off record comments)

28  
29 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Fred, maybe you've got it in your  
30 notes, the agenda item that I had was a letter requesting  
31 Council to be involved with the impacts of 810, we already  
32 discussed that and decided, right?

33  
34 MR. CLARK: Yes.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, that was my only.....

37  
38 MS. PHILLIPS: Did we already address the intertidal  
39 zone protection one? I had that down, did we?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: What's the SRC?

42  
43 MS. PHILLIPS: Didn't you bring that up, John?

44  
45 MR. VALE: Requesting a letter, one on water fowl,  
46 migratory birds and one on funding for an access study for the  
47 Park.

48  
49 MS. PHILLIPS: Is that already taken care of?

50

00224

1 MR. CLARK: Is that something under new business or  
2 something we've done already?

3  
4 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: New business.

5  
6 MR. VALE: We passed motions supporting those two  
7 actions so we need to draft some correspondence to follow-up on  
8 it. I'd be more than happy to get with you Fred to do that.

9  
10 MR. CLARK: As I recall, that's what we decided to do,  
11 that you would draft up the language and give it to me.....

12  
13 MR. VALE: Yes.

14  
15 MR. CLARK: .....to finalize and pass around.

16  
17 MR. VALE: Yes.

18  
19 MR. CLARK: Not out.

20  
21 MR. VALE: Um-hum.

22  
23 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Clarence.

26  
27 MR. SUMMERS: Clarence Summers, National Park Service.  
28 Fred, I believe you have a letter from the Eastern Interior  
29 Regional Council in support of the migratory bird proposal to  
30 use as a model and you have it?

31  
32 MR. VALE: Yes.

33  
34 MR. SUMMERS: Okay, I just wanted to make sure, thank  
35 you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, the next agenda item -- did  
38 that conclude our new business? Our next agenda item is  
39 elections or are we going to go to location -- elections, let's  
40 do the elections. Ready Fred?

41  
42 MR. CLARK: I am ready.

43  
44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Ready Freddy.

45  
46 MR. CLARK: Just for the record I wanted to point out  
47 that the office of the Chair, which we'll be talking about  
48 first, serves a one year term, but may serve more than one  
49 year. Conducts the Regional Council meetings, attends and  
50 represents the Regional Council at meetings of the Board, is a

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1 voting member of the Council. Signs reports, correspondence,  
2 meeting minutes and other documents for external distribution.  
3 So that's the big responsibilities of the Chair person.

4  
5 So at this point I'd like to open the floor for  
6 nominations for Chair person.

7  
8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Nominations are open. John.

9  
10 MR. VALE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I nominate Bill  
11 Thomas for Chair.

12  
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Bill Thomas has been nominated for  
14 the office.

15  
16 MR. GEORGE: I move that nominations cease.

17  
18 MR. VALE: Second.

19  
20 MR. CLARK: It's been moved that nominations cease.

21  
22 MS. WILSON: Second.

23  
24 MR. NICKERSON: Second.

25  
26 MR. CLARK: Seconded. Discussion. Hearing none,  
27 nominations are closed. Since there's only one nomination,  
28 your new Chairman is Bill Thomas.

29  
30 (Applause)

31  
32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you.

33  
34 MR. CLARK: It's all yours.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Nominations are now open for vice  
37 chair.

38  
39 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chair, I nominate Dolly Garza.

40  
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly Garza's been nominated.  
42 Further nominations.

43  
44 MR. VALE: Move to close nominations, Mr. Chairman.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Move to close nominations, is there a  
47 second.

48  
49 MR. FELLER: Second.

50

00226

1 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Moved and seconded. Discussion.

2  
3 MR. GEORGE: Question.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called, all those in  
6 favor say aye.

7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Those opposed no.

11  
12 (No opposing responses)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly's our vice president. Give her  
15 a hand.

16  
17 (Applause)

18  
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Personally I'm honored each time that  
20 you folks vote your confidence in me. I take it very serious.  
21 I don't take anything for granted. I like to be a  
22 representative to you as I possibly can. And I'll give Dolly's  
23 acceptance speech, too. Dolly has always been very supportive,  
24 cooperative and gracious in responding whenever I've needed to  
25 have her either go with me to meetings or to go in my place at  
26 meetings. She is equally as well, if not more so known around  
27 the State in many circles and does an excellent job and she's  
28 always a threat when I get out there. So I have to be pretty  
29 careful with myself. But I want to thank Dolly for her support  
30 that she's given the last couple of years and to all of you,  
31 thank you very much.

32  
33 MS. McCONNELL: What about the secretary?

34  
35 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Secretary. We need a nomination for  
36 a secretary.

37  
38 MS. RUDOLPH: Mr. Chairman, I nominate Patricia.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Patricia has been nominated. Are  
41 there further nominations? Is our railroad still running?

42  
43 MR. VALE: Move to close nominations.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's been moved to close nominations.  
46 Do I hear a second.

47  
48 MR. NICKERSON: Second.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Moved and seconded. Discussion.

00227

1 MR. VALE: Question.

2  
3 MS. RUDOLPH: Question.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Question's been called. All those in  
6 favor say aye.

7  
8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Those opposed say no.

11  
12 (No opposing responses)

13  
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Our railroad is full. Thank you.  
15 You got 20 minutes for comments, acknowledgements Patti.

16  
17 MS. PHILLIPS: Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Item 8, location and date of next  
20 meeting. Now, last year I put a lot of planning into inviting  
21 the meeting to Saxman, and I was really well prepared when I  
22 did so. And this guy that was storm bound in Juneau over a  
23 teleconference talked me out of it and he said you can get to  
24 Ketchikan easier than you can Yakutat in the winter time, so I  
25 agreed. And so if there's no objection we can schedule our  
26 next meeting in Saxman. Saxman's all geared up for us, I'm  
27 building a hotel there so you've got plenty of places to stay.  
28 John.

29  
30 MR. VALE: A wonderful suggestion, Mr. Chairman, and I  
31 guess all we need to do is set the dates. I know we have the  
32 two meeting schedules there, but I'm comfortable with the March  
33 -- the second schedule, the delayed schedule, I'm comfortable  
34 with that myself. But I'm open personally to any time, but if  
35 anyone has any suggestions on refining those dates we can  
36 listen to them.

37  
38 MS. WILSON: Mr. Chairman.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Marilyn.

41  
42 MS. WILSON: I would like to suggest the dates between  
43 March 9th and -- either March 9th or March 11th.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: How does March 11th sound to  
46 everybody?

47  
48 MR. VALE: Good.

49  
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: March 11th. John.



00228

1 MR. FELLER: Yes, it's a little close to halibut  
2 fishing. I need that money to pay my taxes.

3  
4 MS. WILSON: That's why I put it that week.

5  
6 MR. FELLER: How about the 9th then?

7  
8 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The 9th.

9  
10 MR. VALE: The 9th is good. I'm glad you brought that  
11 up John, I'd forgotten that.

12  
13 MR. FELLER: Yeah.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I think this Council should consist  
16 of all retired people. All right. Any objections to Saxman,  
17 May 9th, that's a Monday, that gives us seven days to meet.

18  
19 MS. WILSON: March 9th.

20  
21 MR. FELLER: March.

22  
23 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: March -- March 9th. No objections?

24  
25 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Fred.

28  
29 MR. CLARK: I just suggest that you might want to  
30 schedule in more than one day.

31  
32 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I did, I said we got seven.

33  
34 MR. CLARK: Seven days?

35  
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah.

37  
38 MR. CLARK: Okay, that's better.

39  
40 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: How about March 9, 10 and 11?

41  
42 MR. VALE: Sounds good.

43  
44 MS. McCONNELL: Yeah.

45  
46 MR. CLARK: I know every time that I talk to the people  
47 who handle the travel arrangements out of Anchorage, they like  
48 to have Monday available as a travel day and then starting the  
49 meeting on the next day. It's not required, it's just what  
50 they prefer. Okay, the suggestion is that if we started the

00229

1 meeting on the afternoon of a Monday, then people could fly in  
2 over the day and then start the meeting in the afternoon, so  
3 that's fine, too.

4  
5 MR. VALE: That doesn't work for me, personally,  
6 because we only have one flight a day and it leaves at 5:00  
7 o'clock.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We'll start twice.

10  
11 MR. VALE: Actually I guess it does work because I  
12 could leave Sunday night and then, you know, I have to go to  
13 Juneau anyway and then go over Monday morning so it does work.

14  
15 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: So we'll convene at Saxman, 2:00 in  
16 the afternoon on March 9th. Is our reporter going to be there?

17  
18 COURT REPORTER: Yes.

19  
20 MS. McCONNELL: You need to do that other window also.

21  
22 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. What's the suggestion for the  
23 first window, February 23 -- February 14th?

24  
25 MS. MEEHAN: No.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: No. February 23rd's been mentioned -  
28 - 23rd sounds like.....

29  
30 MS. McCONNELL: How about February 23rd?

31  
32 MR. VALE: Going once, going twice.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: 23, 24, 25th, Saxman 2:00 p.m.  
35 That's alternate one, and alternate two is done. I guess we  
36 wait to hear from you, Rosa, then on which one we're going to  
37 use or Sue?

38  
39 MS. MEEHAN: The question is what?

40  
41 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We picked two days.

42  
43 MS. MEEHAN: Yes.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: February 23rd or March 9th for three  
46 days -- or two and a half days, actually.

47  
48 MS. MEEHAN: That's all the information that we need to  
49 know, Mr. Chairman. And what we will do is at the end of the  
50 round of Council meetings, very shortly thereafter, we will let

00230

1 you know which schedule we're going to work from so that my  
2 anticipation is that by mid-November we will have notified  
3 everybody as to which schedule we'll be on.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you.

6  
7 MR. KITKA: I'm in favor of February, herring spawn the  
8 11th of March last year.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Herring spawn when in March?

11  
12 MR. KITKA: The 11th.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The 11th of March?

15  
16 MR. KITKA: Herring spawned in Sitka on March 11th last  
17 year.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, we'll put a moratorium on their  
20 spawning.

21  
22 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We'll work it out, these are just  
25 suggestions. We'll work it out during the course of the year,  
26 they'll probably change and so if that's the case we'll change  
27 for that reason, too, okay.

28  
29 MR. KITKA: Okay.

30  
31 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah, these are just suggestions and  
32 we'll be working it around and we're going to try not to  
33 inconvenience anybody.

34  
35 MR. CLARK: Mr. Chairman.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Fred.

38  
39 MR. CLARK: We're also working on trying to find out  
40 when the dates for the Goldmetal Basketball Tournament are  
41 going to be, you don't want to conflict with that.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, comments. This is the time in  
44 our agenda that we give everybody here an opportunity to speak.  
45 Right now, I would invite people from the public, which are the  
46 members of the community, if you have any comments you'd like  
47 to make at this time, we'd be willing to hear from you. If you  
48 don't, that's okay, too. We're going to hear from the  
49 Secretary of the State, Walter Johnson.

50

00231

1 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

2  
3 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

4  
5 MS. GARZA: While Walter comes up, I just wanted to  
6 report that we raised \$314, so we divided it equally between  
7 the two families.

8  
9 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Give them a hand.

10  
11 (Applause)

12  
13 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Walter.

14  
15 MR. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank  
16 the Southeast Regional Council for coming to Yakutat. I  
17 believe that we seen some very important decisions being made  
18 and the way it was -- the decisions were made. I feel that we  
19 know that we're comfortable, I know I'm comfortable with the  
20 Council. I had a little bit of concerns at the beginning  
21 because I thought there was a division on subsistence, but I  
22 found out that there isn't and I feel a lot better.

23  
24 I think that this Council and I think I stated at the  
25 beginning, should remain and those bureaucrats that are in  
26 Washington, D.C., on the main Council that they're starting up  
27 or is in effect, I'm not exactly sure of the make up of the  
28 Council, but I do believe that we should have more of a voice  
29 because it does effect us all. The one thing that I think  
30 should come from -- a recommendation come from this body to the  
31 Southcentral that a Yakutat representative be included in the  
32 Southcentral simply because of 6(A) that we have been using  
33 since time and memorial and we have no say so in the decision  
34 making in that area. I know because we have an allotment -- I  
35 have an allotment right in that area and the only allotments in  
36 that area are Yakutat residents. So in 6(A), I believe that if  
37 a recommendation from this body could come forth to the  
38 Southcentral asking for a representative to be allowed on their  
39 Board from Yakutat, I know that person would be under the gun  
40 every time he gets into Southcentral, but then that would be  
41 something that that representative would have to face.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Actually, Walter, what we've been  
44 doing up to now, whenever we have anything going on in the unit  
45 we address it jointly. We will defer to Southcentral,  
46 Southcentral will defer to us. And the first opportunity we  
47 get we meet and discuss and decide at that point so we don't do  
48 anything to insult one or the other from either side of the  
49 line. So that seems to be an effective way of addressing it.  
50 That way it wouldn't put one person on the spot.

00232

1 MR. JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, and that's all I have.  
2 And once again, thank you for attending and letting us watch  
3 you in action and thank you again.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We're happy to be in Yakutat, thank  
6 you.

7  
8 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

9  
10 MR. VALE: Walter, just a brief comment about the  
11 Southcentral Regional Council. I know many of those people  
12 involved with that Council and they're very good people and  
13 they have the same heartfelt concern for protecting subsistence  
14 that these people do on this body here. They're a good group  
15 and they'll do right by us in the future.

16  
17 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

18  
19 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Anybody else from the public that  
20 aren't part of an agency. Don.

21  
22 MR. BREMNER: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to  
23 thank the members for their donations to the families. We'll  
24 extend that to them and we want to thank you for your  
25 understanding, thank you.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: The pleasure was ours Don. And  
28 again, we do share in their grief, so please extend that for  
29 us.

30  
31 MR. BREMNER: Thank you.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Anybody else from the  
34 public. Okay, not seeing anybody, agencies -- agency people,  
35 you got anything to say?

36  
37 MS. GARZA: Marty does.

38  
39 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Are you agency or public? Public,  
40 come on.

41  
42 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Council. For the  
43 record my name's Wade Martin. I'm here representing Sitka  
44 Tribe of Alaska. I have many concerns today with the stocks  
45 around Sitka Sound area in our Game Management Unit 4. The  
46 biggest concern that's on our table in front of us back home is  
47 our deer habitat, we would like to preserve that for our future  
48 generations to be using for our subsisting, not only deer, but  
49 many other different animals and mammals that we collect and  
50 harvest.

00233

1 Another one that is a big concern that I've seen lately  
2 for the last four or five years with the big boom and increase  
3 is the charter fleet in our Sitka area is the cohos up in the  
4 rivers that are up in the Federal jurisdiction lands way up in  
5 the rivers up in the pools. We have charter fishermen going up  
6 and depleting our stocks and just to name a few of these  
7 streams that are being endangered as far as the cohos being  
8 wiped out are these Nakwasina River, Katlian River, Fish Bay  
9 River, Snitzen Cove River is just to name a few that I know of,  
10 Salmon Lake is another one up in Silver Bay. I did some  
11 research and talked to many people last year about it and no  
12 one seemed to really want to take the -- I talked to State and  
13 Federal agencies in Sitka and no one really wanted to take the  
14 issue and go with it to help us with this issue. And I just  
15 felt like basically we were beating a dead horse over trying to  
16 get somebody to enforce on Federal land to keep these guys out  
17 of there and keep it a subsistence use area. And I don't know  
18 if we could -- I'm here today to look for -- to hopefully have  
19 the Council give me recommendations to where I can go or to  
20 what I can do to protect these resources.

21  
22 And another big one that I've seen for the last couple  
23 of years is dungeness crab. We've got all of our bays from  
24 Sitka going north all the way to Hoonah Sound, to Rodman Bay,  
25 Deep Bay, all of our big bays, Fish Bay, they're all being  
26 depleted of crab. Subsistence users aren't really getting the  
27 full benefit of the crab fisheries. The price of crab was real  
28 high this year and they really -- they really pounded on the  
29 stocks. The last few years -- I've crabbed way back in the  
30 early '70s around Hoonah and what I was always taught was when  
31 you start getting soft shelled crab over and over, the  
32 immatures are molting and they're always losing their shell  
33 because they're growing and that's all we're seeing up at the  
34 head of the bays for the last couple of years. They're not old  
35 mossbacked type crab and they're all soft and we just keep  
36 catching and releasing them over and I think there's a big  
37 mortality issue there and I think these stocks need to be  
38 protected. And when they come back to the Board of Fish in a  
39 couple of years, I'm going to write a proposal to make those a  
40 C&T determination along with the coho, but until then I was  
41 hoping I could get some feedback and a couple of good avenues  
42 of which way to go to help me with this venture in protecting  
43 our stocks.

44  
45 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: In regard to that, do you got public  
46 safety, law enforcing in Sitka?

47  
48 MR. MARTIN: Excuse me?

49  
50 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Public safety, law enforcement from

00234

1 the State, do you got that?

2

3 MR. MARTIN: We got one man that does law enforcement.  
4 I don't know the new officer in town, but the other one was  
5 Todd Sharp and he moved to Fairbanks. He was a real honest  
6 man. But Sitka is the biggest borough in the United States and  
7 one man to cover the whole area is just -- I guess they're  
8 understaffed and they're just not in the budget for  
9 enforcement.

10

11 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Well, my reason for asking was maybe  
12 you could get enough time from him to ask him for a  
13 recommendation. Being this is an enforcement problem, ask him  
14 how the enforcement agency would approach that the most  
15 effectively if they're able to, and then find that out and then  
16 go for some exploring beyond that. That's what I would offer.

17

18 MR. MARTIN: Okay, Bill.

19

20 MS. PHILLIPS: Mr. Chairman.

21

22 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Patti.

23

24 MS. PHILLIPS: I'd like to recommend that you contact  
25 the Kake ANB, because I know that they're investigating doing a  
26 proposal to protect their subsistence areas for crab near the  
27 Kake area.

28

29 MR. MARTIN: Okay. and then another one that I had  
30 that's really a big concern, I don't know if we can address it  
31 here is herring.

32

33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: We're not into fish yet.

34

35 MR. MARTIN: Okay.

36

37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Yeah, I don't know that we will be, I  
38 said, yet, just because it's coming natural now, so.....

39

40 MR. MARTIN: Yeah, because I.....

41

42 MS. GARZA: Mr. Chairman.

43

44 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Dolly.

45

46 MS. GARZA: I guess just as a warning, I think that the  
47 Sitka community will continue to submit C&T determinations and  
48 regulation requests for fish despite the fact that we're not  
49 addressing it yet. And you know, we're just going to be as  
50 aggressive as we can because it just needs to happen.

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1 MR. MARTIN: Okay. Well, then what I basically ask for  
2 then today is if we could get a letter of support sent to the  
3 Sitka Tribe saying that the Council recognizes the problems and  
4 the support us in our efforts to help maintain a healthy  
5 population of our stocks.

6  
7 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I think we can do that, sure.

8  
9 MR. MARTIN: Okay. Because our herring -- our herring  
10 was over fished and it was public knowledge this year. It went  
11 out in the paper that our herring stocks were over fished, but  
12 the bio assessment -- the biomass that they thought that was  
13 out there and after it was over, they figured that they over  
14 fished the stocks by about 30 percent, and that's quite a  
15 substantial increase. And now they want to start herring  
16 pounding in our area with two experimental -- they tried to get  
17 the Tribe involved in it and we didn't want no part of it. But  
18 basically what they're going to do now is start up two  
19 different fisheries, two different people to come in there --  
20 or corporations to come in there and put -- they're allowed 10  
21 pounds a piece at 40 by 60 foot long and they're open pounding  
22 and what they want to do is be able to put those pounds right  
23 in where the herring are spawning. And in the areas in Sitka  
24 where they spawn are such small areas, that'd be in big direct  
25 conflict with subsistence users and there'd be a lot of  
26 problems and I'm sure there'd be a lot of hard feelings and I  
27 think there'd be -- I don't know, I think it could really get  
28 ugly, you know. I can't say what would happen, but you know,  
29 they're in direct conflict with our people harvesting their  
30 foods that they've had since time and memorial, I think it'd be  
31 a real danger and someone would get hurt.

32  
33 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

34  
35 MR. MARTIN: And that's all I have, Bill, thank you.

36  
37 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you very much.

38  
39 MS. GARZA: So Mr. Chairman, on that last issue, I'd be  
40 glad to work with Marty on a letter if it's the intent of the  
41 Council to support that concern and then have you sign it.

42  
43 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay.

44  
45 MS. GARZA: Okay.

46  
47 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Marty.

48  
49 MR. MARTIN: I know you've heard this earlier today.  
50 The only thing I had and it didn't seem real relevant to a lot



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1 of people, but the plants, getting back on the plants again.  
2 There's a lot of people in Sitka that feel if we do not do  
3 something to try to protect our plants, put allotments aside  
4 for different things like our Devil Club and the Muskeg and our  
5 Hudson Bay tea and our roots, I mean we can't get them all in  
6 one area but we'd have to kind of pick spots designated just  
7 for customary and traditional gathering. And we'll probably be  
8 needing help with that also.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay, thank you.

11  
12 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

13  
14 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Agencies, anybody from the agencies.  
15 Larry.

16  
17 MR. MESHEW: Mr. Chairman, members of the Council, I'm  
18 Larry Mesheew, ecosystems staff officer. I'm in the Ketchikan  
19 area, the Tongass National Forest. I wanted to take this  
20 opportunity to offer an apology for the inadequacy of the data  
21 that we were able to provide at the last meeting in Sitka. And  
22 as a result of that we've been trying to increase our knowledge  
23 base, we've been trying to collect additional data. You heard  
24 the presentation by Bob and Mike this morning. We've put some  
25 additional dollars into deer pellet transects. We also have  
26 Sheri Ford here from the Thorne Bay district. Sheri is also  
27 working on a road access management plan. And we just wanted  
28 to tell you that we're doing everything we can to collaborate  
29 with the other agencies and also to provide you with the best  
30 data that we can to address some of the concerns about game  
31 management in -- or deer management in Game Management in Unit  
32 2.

33  
34 Thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thorne Bay, want to bless us with  
37 your sound, appreciate that. Sorry we didn't get to you  
38 sooner, but we're always glad to hear from you.

39  
40 MS. FORD: Mr. Chairman, members of the Council. Sheri  
41 Ford from the Thorne Bay Ranger district, I'm a biologist  
42 there. And I had brought some maps and different things to  
43 share with you folks, but basically wanted to let you know that  
44 we're working on the access management plan and the effects  
45 that that might have on the subsistence use and hunting. In  
46 the GMU, the majority of the harvest it seems takes place on  
47 our district and so we've narrowed down the analysis area from  
48 Neck Lake south of Carta, and we'll be looking at that over  
49 this fall and winter. We'll be coming out to the public and  
50 talking to different agencies and we want to get your input and

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1 we'll probably working with Jeff and Vicky quite a bit. And  
2 just want to open that up that if anybody has anything they can  
3 help us out with that they do call me at the district or work  
4 through Jeff maybe.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Okay. Thank you very much.

7  
8 MS. FORD: You're welcome. Thank you.

9  
10 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Anybody else from agencies, State or  
11 Federal. Sue.

12  
13 MS. DETWILER: Thank you. I didn't have any other  
14 business to conduct. But I just wanted to take this  
15 opportunity to thank the Council for another well run meeting.  
16 I appreciate the diligence and the thoroughness with which  
17 you've all conducted your business here. And I know you also  
18 have intraregional things that need to be worked out and I know  
19 it's difficult to do those in a public forum. So I appreciate  
20 the way in which you carry things out. And Bill, especially, I  
21 appreciate your statesmanship in running the meeting, even more  
22 so, your sense of humor.

23  
24 And I also wanted to thank you people of Yakutat for  
25 the outstanding hospitality that we've had while we've been  
26 here. Especially in such a hard time for them. I especially  
27 appreciate the food and particularly the dancing and the  
28 explanations last night that helped me to understand more of  
29 the culture and I really appreciate it when I come some place  
30 and people are willing to share those things. It always help  
31 me immensely when I go back to the office and try to do my job  
32 when I understand more of people's perspectives out in the  
33 rural areas. So I just wanted to take the opportunity to say  
34 thank you.

35  
36 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you. Anybody else. Rob.

37  
38 MR. SCHROEDER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Council,  
39 I'd like to thank you on behalf of the Department for the  
40 welcome that you extend to Department Staff. And I recognize  
41 how I think we're developing means of working together quite a  
42 bit better than we have, certainly in the early phase of this  
43 very unusual time. I was thinking how all of us seem to be  
44 caught a little bit between hopes and expectations. And that  
45 the hopes are that I know from dealing with many of you over  
46 the years that the hope is that somehow the subsistence issue  
47 will be resolved. And that all of you can get on with the rest  
48 of your life and not be forced to make major volunteer  
49 contributions, but that you could simply do the things that are  
50 important to you and be assured that your communities would be

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1 able to continue with the subsistence patterns that are theirs.  
2 The expectation is not that that's going to take place. The  
3 expectation for probably all of us is that as long as  
4 subsistence is important and as long as the cultural -- as long  
5 as it provides a cultural basis for society in Southeast  
6 Alaska, there are going to be people who spend a lot of their  
7 own personal time working on things in hopes of getting it  
8 right.

9  
10 The expectation as a Staff person is that no, we're not  
11 going to have an immediate resolution and we're going to get  
12 very good direction on what different responsibilities are. I  
13 think that puts a lot of responsibility on us to do the best  
14 job that we can as individuals to both, protect the resource  
15 and to ensure that subsistence is not something that becomes a  
16 historical note in a text book in the future, but it continues  
17 to be alive and well as it is today.

18  
19 And with that, and the taste of this very good dried  
20 salmon and seal oil in my mouth, I would also thank Yakutat for  
21 the welcome that they've given us and the community spirit that  
22 they've shown us. Thank you.

23  
24 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Rob. I think the issue  
25 has been resolved, but I don't think it's been accepted.  
26 Clarence.

27  
28 MR. SUMMERS: Mr. Chairman, Council members on behalf  
29 of the National Park Service I'd like to thank you for this  
30 opportunity to share with you once again this process of  
31 subsistence management. I know that for me, coming back to  
32 Yakutat was a fantastic feeling, the community, the people here  
33 will always be a part of my life.

34  
35 With regard to, I think a comment that Dolly made  
36 referring to the 810 process, I'll make an effort to get a  
37 National Park Service document on 810 to Fred and I'm sure  
38 he'll distribute it to you and hopefully at the next meeting if  
39 you have any comments and concerns we'll be able to respond to  
40 them. I know that the Park Service is committed to this effort  
41 of providing a subsistence program for the local residents of  
42 Southeast Alaska and your work efforts are above and beyond the  
43 call of duty as far as representing the communities and the  
44 residents of Southeast Alaska. Thank you very much.

45  
46 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Clarence. Anybody else  
47 from agencies. Okay, that brings it back to the Council,  
48 starting with Gabe. Wait a minute, Gabe, save your breath.  
49 Staff. Got anything to say Fred? Thank you.

50

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1 MR. CLARK: I've always liked Yakutat. Every time I've  
2 come here it's been wonderful even when it's raining and it  
3 does that a lot. And to have the sun shine and the warm open  
4 hearts of the community open to us like they have in the midst  
5 of so much pain has been just amazing to me. And I appreciate  
6 that. And I don't see many people from the community in the  
7 audience anymore, but you know, I really feel that deeply.  
8 It's been a wonderful experience.

9  
10 And as usual, working with the Council in this setting  
11 has been a great experience for me, too, to see the operation  
12 of the Council and the depth of thought. And even though  
13 people don't agree, that is what brings the depth to the  
14 discussions, so keep those opinions strong and active and we'll  
15 all benefit a great deal. Your humanity, your humility, your  
16 intelligence. Thank you very much.

17  
18 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Fred. Sorry about that  
19 Gabe, for that I'll give you 30 seconds all together.

20  
21 MR. GABRIEL: I'd just like to thank Yakutat for the  
22 hospitality, the food, the dancing and everything that they  
23 extended out to the Regional Council. (In Native Language)

24  
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

26  
27 MR. FELLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would  
28 like to extend my thanks to the community of Yakutat and their  
29 open armed welcome for the Council. And also that we also  
30 appreciate the beautiful weather that Mt. St. Elias took her  
31 cap off for us.

32  
33 I'd like to say that -- make a short report on the  
34 Wrangell area, we haven't heard much about that. When I was in  
35 -- before I left to Wrangell, there was -- one of the guys from  
36 Petersburg, Ed Crane, and he said that there was 24 moose taken  
37 in Mitkof and Wrangell and mainland, the Stikine River Valley  
38 and Thomas Bay area so far, and 10 of them were from the  
39 Wrangell area. So I take that again as a good sign that our  
40 regulations are working in that area. Even though it was  
41 difficult in those early days, we made the right determination.  
42 And there was even one moose who was up to 48 and a half  
43 inches, you might pass that on to Bob Willis. I always liked a  
44 lot of the input and perspection -- the views from the agencies  
45 and I want you to know that we still appreciate that very much.

46  
47 And one thing about Yakutat, too, is even though it's  
48 way up here, I have a lot of -- I have a considerable amount of  
49 family and some I haven't met and so I'm looking forward to  
50 meeting some of them at this lunch here, some of Bert Adams'

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1 sons and daughters, so with that, I'll close. Thank you very  
2 much.

3  
4 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Marilyn.

5  
6 MS. WILSON: Thank you. I guess all of us are very  
7 grateful to Yakutat and to John for inviting our Council here.  
8 We're thankful for the people's hospitality, the children who  
9 danced for us, and Mary James, who danced with them. And I'm  
10 thankful for the agencies that are here trying to give us data  
11 and information.

12  
13 And I'm kind of thankful for that Proposal 7 that we  
14 decided on last year because this made the agencies come  
15 together and it takes the initiative of the individuals that do  
16 happen to work in these agencies to get together and put their  
17 heads together and say, well, we're going to get money here and  
18 here and there and we'll get this done so we can help the  
19 Council get all this information so that we could make sound  
20 decisions.

21  
22 I'm just thankful to be here and thank you Yakutat.  
23 And thank you Fred.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Mim. Thank you, Marilyn.

26  
27 MS. McCONNELL: Just on that Proposal 7 thing, just a  
28 suggestion that it might be a good thing to do a little bit of  
29 PR around Southeast to -- I don't know, I've read some articles  
30 in some -- some copies of some articles in some newspapers from  
31 the summer and last winter, I think also, and there's a lot of  
32 misconception about who we are and some misunderstandings. And  
33 I just think that maybe some PR might be good, some newspaper -  
34 - big full page ad or something, I don't know, to kind of help  
35 people understand what we're about and we're not the enemy for  
36 most of them.

37  
38 Aside from that, once again it's really good to work  
39 with the Council and the Staff, agencies, and it's been a  
40 growing experience. And I really enjoy being on this Council  
41 and working with everybody. It's nice to have an opportunity  
42 to really dig in and be involved in what happens in Southeast.

43  
44 I wanted to thank John for inviting us here. It's nice  
45 to be able to come back up to Yakutat again, I haven't been  
46 here in quite a while, so it's been fun to see the place again.  
47 I always have liked Yakutat and I still do. And I also want to  
48 express my appreciation to the community for their open hearts  
49 and generosity and sharing joy with us last night in spite of  
50 what they've been experiencing here. I was really impressed

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1 with that last night, with the dancing and watching their  
2 faces. My heart just really goes out to the community, so I  
3 wish you well, I hope you have a good winter.

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: John.

6  
7 MR. VALE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's been  
8 wonderful having you all here. And I'd like to thank you, Mr.  
9 Chairman for giving up on the Saxman meeting location and  
10 allowing us to come here to this meeting. Once again, it's  
11 been wonderful having you all and on behalf of the community,  
12 your thanks are very welcome. And you know, when I asked for  
13 this meeting here I did so because I felt that -- I saw this  
14 as, I don't know, what I describe as maybe a two-way street. I  
15 thought it would be a great opportunity for the community of  
16 Yakutat to learn what the Federal program is about, both with  
17 the Council and with the agencies and how we interact and I  
18 think we've succeeded in that. And also I thought it would be  
19 a wonderful opportunity, too, for the Council and the Staff to  
20 learn what Yakutat is about, and we've succeeded there. And I  
21 think this has been a tremendous success.

22  
23 And once again, it was wonderful having you all and I  
24 think our good karma brought all this sunshine. In closing, I  
25 hope those of you would appreciate these little jars of seal  
26 oil laying around will take them home with you. Don't hesitate  
27 to grab them and any fish that might be left over. And with  
28 that, you know, goodbye.

29  
30 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, John. We'll start at the  
31 other end now with Patti.

32  
33 MS. PHILLIPS: I appreciate Elaine Abraham recognizing  
34 that Native people migrate and become Tlingitized. I'm Aleut  
35 and Eskimo, born and raised in Southeast Alaska and I'm  
36 Tlingitized and Haiditized because my husband's family on his  
37 mother's side comes from Hydaburg.

38  
39 I wanted to read part of my testimony that I gave to  
40 the House Committee for subsistence, it was a teleconference  
41 meeting going on in Ketchikan. It was my second testimony. I  
42 had submitted written testimony to the task force for  
43 subsistence, the Governor's Task Force for subsistence. And  
44 this is just a small part of my testimony. I quoted ANILCA  
45 Section 801 and then; the Congress finds and declares that the  
46 continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural  
47 residents of Alaska, including both Natives and non-Natives on  
48 the public lands and by Alaska Native on Native lands is  
49 essential to the Native physical, economic, traditional and  
50 cultural existence and to non-Native physical, economic,

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1 traditional and social existence. Then I'm going to skip part  
2 of my testimony and go on. A problem of dual management is the  
3 confusion of conflicting regulations. There should be a system  
4 in place for joint regulations to form with input from Federal,  
5 State and Native involvement, in other words, co-management.  
6 The decisions and regulations I help formulate involve Federal,  
7 State, managers, staff and Native input. Each with information  
8 pertinent to the issues involved.

9  
10 I didn't -- I want to interject here that I felt that  
11 the State Memorandum of Agreement was a step in that direction,  
12 though I understand the concerns that I heard yesterday. I'll  
13 go on with my testimony; the Federal Subsistence Board  
14 currently is responsive to villager's subsistence needs. Under  
15 the past State system of management, the subsistence user had  
16 little or no representation. It is why the subsistence user  
17 prefers Federal subsistence management. The Native cultural  
18 identity possess a unique past of which we are actively trying  
19 to carry into the future. The formulating of Federal  
20 subsistence management regulation has empowered and recognizes  
21 subsistence users and their harvest methods.

22  
23 I'd like to finish up by thanking the community of  
24 Yakutat and all those that participated in our meetings for  
25 their cooperation.

26  
27 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Jeff. Thank you, Patti.

28  
29 MR. NICKERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like  
30 to start off also by thanking Yakutat and expressing my  
31 condolences to the two families and to let them know that my  
32 prayers have been with them and will be with this community of  
33 Yakutat.

34  
35 I was very excited to come to Yakutat because I had  
36 never, ever been here before, and I've really enjoyed it. And  
37 back home, when we have visitors we always tell them that this  
38 is the way the weather is all the time, you know.

39  
40 So I'm also very excited to be on this Board. I  
41 haven't been -- I haven't had the desire to be on a board this  
42 much since 1981 when I decided that I wanted to be on the  
43 Klawock School Board. And I am very excited. I really  
44 appreciate everyone's input. I really have a lot of respect  
45 for this Board, I want you to know that.

46  
47 And someone mentioned Proposal 7, and from myself,  
48 personally, I would like to thank the Chair for everything that  
49 he had put up with when all the controversy was on and I know  
50 it was for Prince of Wales Island, and I really do appreciate

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1 it and I recognize that and I thank you. I'm also very excited  
2 about the studies that tentatively are going to go on on Prince  
3 of Wales Island. And from my point of view, hopefully this  
4 will prolong subsistence as far as the deer goes, that's what  
5 I'm looking at and I'm hoping that is what it will do. I was  
6 born and raised in Klawock, I've always lived off the beach and  
7 the woods. And I do know, as well, of a lot of people in my  
8 community that the deer population is down, you know. I was  
9 approached -- before I came up here last week I was approached  
10 by the street by two people, you know, and they expressed  
11 concerns about it. I told them I needed to get educated a  
12 little more before I could decide what my roles were and how I  
13 needed to accomplish some of the things they wanted to do.  
14 Hopefully the study and everything that's coming down here may  
15 prevent a closure that is very much possible on Prince of Wales  
16 Island in the future. If something isn't done -- I mean that's  
17 how strongly that I feel about the deer on Prince of Wales  
18 Island. You know, I know there have been closures on all the  
19 islands. I've talked to the two gentlemen from Sitka and they  
20 said that it was closed years ago. I have a brother-in-law in  
21 Petersburg, he said he couldn't hunt deer for awhile, I think  
22 they are now. You know, and this is what I would like to  
23 prevent happening on Prince of Wales Island. And I understand  
24 that I sit on this Board representing everybody in Southeast  
25 Alaska at the same time.

26

27 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

28

29 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Jeff. Mary.

30

31 MS. RUDOLPH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also  
32 like to give my condolence to the family. I'm happy to be here  
33 in Yakutat for the first time. The first day we came, Herman  
34 said, this is where our fathers came from and it's a very proud  
35 feeling just having that knowledge and feeling that my father  
36 was part of this place. He died in 1980 and hardly shared any  
37 history with me and so now I'm kind of feeding off Herman a  
38 little bit. So it's a proud feeling to see with all their  
39 tragedies the kindness and the friendliness they showed us. I  
40 haven't been disappointed or so proud of a village that was  
41 willing to share the food that they've worked so hard for.

42

43 I thank John for inviting us to Yakutat. Especially  
44 his wife that worked so hard. I haven't hardly ever seen her  
45 not miss a day coming down to make sure we have some kind of  
46 snack. So I think behind John stands a real likeable person  
47 and we thank you. And we thank all the workers, the cooks,  
48 everybody that put everything together so nicely for us, and  
49 never felt unwelcome at any time.

50



1 And we thank the Staff for all their help. We thank  
2 our coordinator, as usual he takes a little ribbing and a lot  
3 of demands, and puts up patiently with all of us. And.....

4  
5 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's his job to.

6  
7 MS. RUDOLPH: .....again, I thank the village of  
8 Yakutat for all that was done for us while we were here. We're  
9 going to go home with a good feeling of knowing this place a  
10 little better and knowing that what we're doing -- I know at  
11 the beginning we were very skeptical, I didn't get on until a  
12 couple of years ago, and we were very skeptical of this  
13 Council, and now as I work with them, I've learned a lot. I've  
14 enjoyed working with this Council, they've shared a lot of  
15 their knowledge and we all help each other. It's always nice  
16 to be with them and appreciate it with them and with the Staff  
17 that works so hard to make us not feel we're a burden to them.  
18 We thank them also. Thank you.

19  
20 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Mary. Herman.

21  
22 MR. KITKA: I also want to thank Yakutat for the  
23 wonderful hospitality they showed us here. And I was very  
24 thankful to hear Elaine Abraham talk about our kinfolks  
25 history. My father's clan came from here. They were known as  
26 the way outside Coho Clan, (In Native Language). And some of  
27 the legends that Elaine talks about I already knew. I knew  
28 what she was talking about when she was talking about the  
29 migration of the people, how we intermingled with the Copper  
30 River people and how we traded for that copper from up there.  
31 It was very interesting to me to hear it again from another  
32 person. I thought I was the only one that knew the history of  
33 our people down in Southeast and here there are other people  
34 that have knowledge of it, too.

35  
36 I'm thankful also for the working relationship of the  
37 Board here. It gives me information for my community. We get  
38 to know how to handle situations and this is very important to  
39 each community. Some of the things that really stress Sitka  
40 people, it's getting to the point where we can't even find any  
41 subsistence food out of the ocean. Abalones is gone, the clams  
42 is gone, the cockles is gone and also crab is getting pretty  
43 hard to find, and gumboots, the sea otters cleaned them all off  
44 the rocks. And these are the things that's really stressing  
45 the people in Sitka on their subsistence. And I think I'm  
46 going to recommend something to them from what the people  
47 discussed here. I think something should be done to really  
48 work out the problems.

49  
50 Years ago they used to hunt the sea otter and there was

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1 plentiful food for the people. And the Sitka people wasn't a  
2 small group at all in the old days. One of Father Duncan's  
3 survey in the Sitka area during the time that they were  
4 harvesting herring roe, he estimated there was 20,000 Indians  
5 in that Sitka Sound area harvesting the herring roe. Today,  
6 one of our problems is the herring only spawn around Middle  
7 Island, just in a little spot. It's getting to the point where  
8 it is hard for residents to get all their herring roe. And  
9 when we have public hearings, I hear comments the cause of the  
10 depletion of the herring stock is the Natives taking the  
11 herring roe from the spawning beds. How come we had a lot of  
12 herring when there was 20,000 Indians harvesting the stock? It  
13 only depleted during the herring roe fisheries, when that  
14 started. Sitka put in a park for whale watching. The whales  
15 come in and go because they can't find any feed anymore. Local  
16 herring stock is gone. Last spring the commercial trawlers in  
17 the Silver Bay king salmon harvest, they didn't get anything.  
18 There was no feed for the king salmon so they didn't come in,  
19 they stayed way out by Cape Edgecumbe and Laser Island. The  
20 closest they came was Vitskari and they were feeding on what  
21 few herring was outside, but mostly needle fish. We testified  
22 that State Fish and Game hearings and the biologists ignored us  
23 and they said there was more herring in Sitka Sound than there  
24 ever was. And when they couldn't find any stock during the  
25 summer, I asked them, what happened to all your herring, he  
26 says, they didn't know. Those are the things that I  
27 participate with the Sitka Tribe to try to correct.

28  
29 And the other problem is the late deer season. I'm in  
30 favor of the game being used instead of wasting it. A lot of  
31 deer is shot up and left on the beach because they're too lean  
32 to be used for human consumption. And it isn't the subsistence  
33 users that's doing it. It's the plain sportsmen that run  
34 around with the high powered boats, and this is the things that  
35 we try to correct. Subsistence users, they have all the meat  
36 they want, even before Christmas, everything is taken care of.  
37 Most of the old timers never used to hunt deer late because the  
38 does, they're carrying young ones and they're pretty well  
39 developed by the time January comes around. And so the old  
40 timers used to leave it alone. And the season used to close  
41 November 20 and we didn't have any problems with that.

42  
43 So this is the things that we were turned down on last  
44 year we tried to correct it, and STA was discussing it this  
45 year again. So maybe on the next meeting we'll be more  
46 prepared with resolutions or else regulation changes for the  
47 Board to consider.

48  
49 And I really enjoy working with all the Federal  
50 agencies, I get a lot of information from your folks' report.

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1 Something that we can go by, for that I'm very thankful. I'm  
2 thankful for having this meeting in the wonderful place where  
3 there's sunshine every day. That's all I have to say, thank  
4 you.

5  
6 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Herman. Dolly.

7  
8 MS. GARZA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I concur with  
9 everything Herman said. Sitka has a lot of issues that it has  
10 to face, I guess, because we're the largest rural community in  
11 Southeast and we will continue to ask you for support and we  
12 hope that your communities grow fast enough that you face these  
13 same problems, too.

14  
15 But in general, I just want to say what a strong  
16 community. What a strong people Yakutat is. That they know  
17 their history, that they rely on their local foods, that they  
18 know their culture. It was just wonderful last night. It was  
19 wonderful to eat the good food and to watch the magic, to know  
20 that the culture is alive and we're not a relic in a museum  
21 somewhere. I guess if people ask me from now on, what is  
22 culture and traditional, I'll just say go to Yakutat. (In  
23 Native Language) Thank you very much.

24  
25 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Thank you, Dolly. I have a lot of  
26 people here I would like to thank. Meg, for her setting up and  
27 for doing a lot of copying from yesterday, thank you. And for  
28 all the help you did, all the arranging of the different things  
29 that happened here. And to Ray and George, for your opening  
30 comments and for introducing the elders and for your  
31 encouraging prayer before the meeting started. And George, for  
32 his narration at the dance last night. John, for inviting the  
33 meeting here and keeping his word. He said there's going to be  
34 subsistence, and so he kept his word. I think he was  
35 surprised, but he kept it.

36  
37 Also the drivers from the Forest Service and other  
38 people that chauffeured us around, you done a good job under  
39 some duress circumstances. And to the Chief of Police for  
40 salvaging one of our members yesterday at lunch time. And she  
41 said, go where all the green trucks are parked. And the  
42 weatherman, I think Yakutat's got a good weatherman, you know.  
43 I don't know where all these stories come from about the bad  
44 weather, but I don't see that.

45  
46 When we got here, Yakutat was already thrust into a  
47 state of sadness by having one of the elder members of the  
48 community pass away. And that's to be expected with age and  
49 health conditions and things, that's all part of life. But the  
50 one thing that's the more difficult part of life is the

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1 incident that happened the following day, where an accidental  
2 death occurred. And so it's really a double shot of  
3 bereavements on a close community. And I had to admire the  
4 courage that was shown last night, they felt the commitment to  
5 come and be with us last night and their hearts were with the  
6 families that were in bereavement. And it was really  
7 remarkable. And I couldn't help but watch those people that  
8 hand carved those beams overhead telling George what to say  
9 last night because I know he doesn't know it by himself. Oh,  
10 hi, George.

11  
12 But anyway, the food was excellent. The hospitality  
13 was good. TV reception was outstanding in our rooms. The  
14 phones were ringing off the hook. You know, and I got to see  
15 some of my cronies in Yakutat, they're still cronies and it's  
16 always a pleasure to see them. I've made some new friends.  
17 And thanks to the Council again for another good job. And to  
18 Salena, I'm glad she beat Joe out of this trip, Joe just  
19 doesn't offer the same presence. Anyway, to the State for your  
20 time and energies and inputs and support, and to Clarence. And  
21 I think without all that, we wouldn't have had the dynamic  
22 meeting that we had. Staff, thank you very much.

23  
24 And again, I thank you for your vote of confidence,  
25 this is a serious business. Like I mentioned earlier, I think  
26 the issue is resolved, it just hasn't been accepted. And if it  
27 weren't for emotion and politics we wouldn't be here. So with  
28 that, thank you for everything and we got to get ready to catch  
29 an airplane and our next item is adjournment. Do I hear a  
30 motion.

31  
32 MR. GABRIEL: Move to adjourn.

33  
34 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: It's been moved, is there a second?

35  
36 MR. VALE: Second.

37  
38 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: All those in favor say aye.

39  
40 IN UNISON: Aye.

41  
42 CHAIRMAN THOMAS: Goodbye, we'll see you in Saxman,  
43 thank you.

44  
45 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

46  
47 \* \* \* \* \*

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

) ss.

STATE OF ALASKA )

I, Salena A. Hile, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and Reporter for R&R Court Reporters, Inc., do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 172 through 247 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the Southeast Regional Subsistence Advisory Council meeting taken electronically by me on the 2nd day of October 1997, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. at the ANB/ANS Hall, Yakutat, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by me to the best of my knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, October 10, 1997.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public in and for Alaska  
My Commission Expires: 11/5/98